

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCE~~R~~

• Vol 12 No 505 — TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1991
• REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST — PUBLICATION N° NBQ5726

\$2

WEEKLY

SOCCE~~R~~ OFFICIAL JAILED



Referee Jim Reeves (centre) before 1989 NSL Grand Final.

Referee sentenced for sexual acts!

A well known soccer referee who sexually interfered with a girl for more than six years has been sentenced in Newcastle District Court to three years jail.

The court was told that the man, Kevin John Reeves, was judged as the national Soccer League referee of the Year in 1989, and had been captain in a volunteer bush fire brigade.

He was known in NSL circles as Jim Reeves.

He also refereed the 1989 NSL Grand Final between Sydney Olympic and Marconi.

Judge Freeman said that while Reeves was presenting an admirable public facade he was engaging in repeated and grossly criminal acts of sexual gratification with the girl.

Reeves, 51, labourer, of Norman St, Waratah West, pleaded guilty to five charges of having indecently assaulted the girl between December 1, 1983, and March 31, 1988, when she was aged between eight and 13.

He also pleaded guilty to eight charges of having had sexual intercourse with the girl between June 8, 1986, and about September 28 last year, when she was aged between 11 and 15.

Judge Freeman fixed an additional nine-month parole period.

THE TOP SOCCER STORIES IN YOUR BIG VALUE PAPER

What ABSW says . . .

THE new NSL season is hardly underway and we've already had a great deal of dissension from players and clubs over some decisions handed down by the League's tribunal.

The prime examples were the \$50,000 local transfer fee placed on Socceroo Ned Zelic and the extra one-match suspension handed out to Marconi's David Seal following his send-off against Wollongong City.

In fact, to say that the present climate between the players and clubs on one hand, and the NSL tribunal on the other, is anything but friendly, would be the understatement of the year.

Indeed, looking at soccer tribunals in general, leaves one very cold.

For when it comes to punishing the

guilty, these organisations seem to be a law unto themselves.

Most of the time, when players face tribunals, they are reduced to the status of soldiers facing a court martial or naughty schoolboys dragged up in front of the headmaster.

And at times, these tribunals look and act like something out of the stone age.

Imagine if the same sort of treatment was handed out to factory workers in this present day.

There would be endless strikes and walkouts, and the 'go-slow' treatment would be adopted.

As for the players, well, they have to act as if they are under martial law.

And, after an appeal, they have no argument or right to challenge left open to

'THOSE TRIBUNALS!'

them.

It really is a bit much.

The duty of the tribunal is no easy task and it's an essential part of the game.

However, the members of a tribunal must at all times realise that without players and clubs there would be no soccer.

And there is no room in the game these days for administrators who sometimes come across as posturing martinet or stubborn tyrants.

From the players' part, the quicker they organise themselves into an association which will stand up for their rights in such situations, the quicker this controversy will be eliminated.

It's as simple as that!

— THE EDITOR.

Decision on the way!

BY GRAHAM COOKE

The composition of the NSW Soccer League would be known "within a week or a fortnight", the general manager of the NSW Soccer Federation, Peter Thorne, says.

And Canberra Metro is a leading candidate for inclusion in the new 12-team Super League, "providing it can give us one important assurance".

Metros will be asked to undertake, there will be no repeat of last season's incident when they refused to play a match

against Avala.

Many Metros supporters have ties with Croatia, while Avala is mainly backed by the Sydney Serbian community. Events in the civil war in Yugoslavia resulted in the Canberra club cancelling in August a scheduled league game with its opponent at Deakin Oval.

Earlier, a cup match between the two clubs had been played in Sydney behind closed doors.

Thorne said if that undertaking was forthcoming, "I can see no reason why the federation board should consider the exclusion of Canberra from the

League."

The ACTSF already has given its endorsement of the Metros' continuing membership.

Strict criteria had been laid down for membership of the Super League, and while the NSWSF was prepared to accept clubs on their word the criteria would be met, "if they let us down in 1992, they need not expect to be around in 1993".

"And this does not just mean such things as having adequate home grounds," Thorne said. "We will be looking at schools development programs as a priority — if the clubs are going to

sell the game to the public then we have to start by convincing the kids."

When the league composition was decided — "and we have more applications than the 12 available places" — the federation would move swiftly to put out a draft fixture list with the aim of printing cards by the end of the month.

"The federation believes supporters should be given every opportunity to plan their activities in conjunction with what their favourite team is doing," he said.

Other projects, such as publication of a weekly magazine, were well in hand.

Big money is coming

NEXT season's winner of the NSW Super League Grand Final will be really in the money if the recommendation of the present clubs is accepted by the NSW Board of Directors.

At a recent meeting, all bar one club supported a motion seeking the award of the major prizemoney to the champions (Grand Final winners) and a lesser figure to the Premier (Minor Premiers).

Chairman of the State League First Division sub-committee Chris Srbinovski said: "The whole idea is based on marketability —

the fact of the matter is that there is little if any dividend whatsoever for the clubs in the fairness of the present system."

The overwhelming majority of the clubs want the proposed prizemoney switched around.

"On this basis \$30,000 would go to the Grand Final winner, and \$10,000 to the Minor Premier.

"With the change would come the opportunity for increased promotion of the games, leading to the strong possibility of much better gate incomes for all the Final Five clubs.

"This would give tangible recognition of

their enterprise over the season."

Mr Srbinovski pointed to the huge increase in gate receipts by the National Soccer League clubs since they adopted the scheme.

"As it stands we downgrade the NSW Final Five matches by limiting prizemoney.

"The clubs then respond by shedding their NSL players for the series.

"Better qualify football and the inbuilt excitement of the Grand Final series matches can be expected to bring in the crowds.

"The Grand final system is part of the Australian way of life, and soccer is no exception to its influence."

Mark out to win

GOALKEEPER Mark Bosnich, the Manchester United throw-away, faces his biggest fight to win the key custodian role with the Australian Olympic Games soccer team.

The Australian squad are in Fiji to play Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Fiji in its second round Oceania qualifying matches for the Barcelona Games.

Bosnich was one of three Australian players chosen in the world's top 20 after the World Youth championship finals in Portugal last June.

Australia finished fourth and Bosnich and striker David Seal last week got awards for their outstanding roles in the championships.

But he has to overcome the awesome consistency of former St George and now Wollongong City keeper John Filan who kept the Australian line clear during the first round Games matches in Melbourne last May.

"I've been away during the last few years and it's only fair for John to have been selected," said Bosnich.

"Anything I do will be to win and I'm happy with my form with Sydney Croatia in the National League since my return from England."

Bosnich had played for famous English club Manchester United for nearly two seasons on a student visa and was ordered to leave Britain because he didn't have a work permit.

Efforts by the United officials failed to have the decision changed and arrangements were made for Bosnich to fly to Denmark to talk with champion club Brondby.

However, the teenager decided to return home and play the Australian competition in an effort to win a place in the Olympic and Socceroo sides.

"I'm looking forward to being back in the national set-up and this squad is closer to my training and playing in England," he said.

"A player can get respect for his performances in club games but international acclaim can only be earned playing for Australia."

"I was in England when we played the home matches but on our performances, I'm confident we'll win this Oceania section."

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER

WEEKLY

P.O. BOX 406 BROADWAY NSW 2007

★ Tel: (02) 660 2033 ★ FAX: (02) 692 0649

★ TELEX: AA22141

Published every Tuesday by Foreign Language Publications Pty. Ltd.

(A company incorporated in New South Wales)

1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037.

DISTRIBUTION:

NSW/ACT: Foreign Language Publications Pty Ltd, 1/9 Glebe Pt Rd, Glebe. 2137. Tel: (02) 660 2033. VICTORIA: Foreign Language Publications Pty Ltd, 2nd floor 276 Russell St, Melbourne 3000. Tel: (03) 663 4411.

QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspapers, Campbell St, Bowen Hills 4006. Tel: (07) 252 6011. SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspapers Ltd Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000 Tel: (08) 218 9329. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: West Australian Newspapers Ltd, 125 St George Terrace, Perth 6000. Tel (09) 321 0161.

EDITOR:

Tom Anderson

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Lou Gautier

MELBOURNE EDITOR:

Greg Blake

PRODUCTION MANAGER:

Stephen Colitti

CADET:

Sally Chant

ADVERTISING:

Sydney: John Economos (02) 660 2033

Melbourne: Greg Blake (03) 663 4411.

VICTORIAN OFFICE: 2nd Floor, 276 Russell St, Melbourne 3000.

Telephone: (03) 663 4411

FAX: (03) 663 1204

Recommended and maximum price only \$2.00.

★ All material appearing in Australian and British Soccer Weekly is copyright and reproduction in any form whatsoever is expressly forbidden without the written permission of the publisher.

The publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographic material.

—Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is Thursday morning of the WEEK PRIOR to issue date.

NSL SCORE BOARD

Results



BRISBANE UNITED 2 (C Slater 43m, J Brown 89m) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Perry Park. Crowd: 3000.
HEIDELBERG 2 (P Stubbings 22m, 57m) ADELAIDE CITY 2 (S Maxwell 31m, J Mullen 64m) at Heidelberg. Crowd: 2500.
MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (F Awaritefe 55m) WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Somers Street. Crowd: 3200.
LEICHHARDT 0 SYDNEY CROATIA 0 at Leichhardt Oval. Crowd: 3155.
PARRAMATTA MELITA 0 NEWCASTLE 0 at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 2122.
WEST ADELAIDE 2 (J Keramidas 51m, P Agostino 61m) PRESTON 2 (G McAleer 75m, J Waddell 79m) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3000.

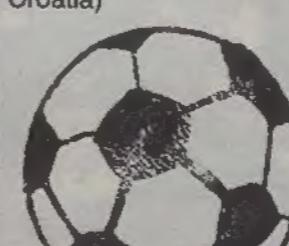


NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

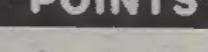
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	6	4	2	0	12	5	10
Melb. Croatia	6	5	0	1	12	5	10
South Melbourne	5	4	0	1	17	5	8
Wollongong City	6	3	2	1	7	2	8
Brisbane Utd	6	3	2	1	9	7	8
Sydney Olympic	6	3	1	2	9	8	7
APIA Leichhardt	6	2	2	2	3	8	6
Heidelberg Utd	6	2	1	3	10	10	5
Newcastle BHP	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
Preston	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Sydney Croatia	6	1	2	3	5	9	4
Parra Melita	6	0	3	3	1	7	3
West Adelaide	6	0	3	3	5	13	3
Marconi	5	0	1	4	4	10	1

TOP GOAL SCORERS

6 Tim Bredbury (Syd Olympic)
6 Kim Taliadoros (South Melb)
4 Paul Trimboli (South Melb)
5 Francis Awaritefe (Melb Croatia)



AWARD PROGRESS POINTS



8 Bredbury (SO)
7 Davidson (MC)
7 Biskic (MC)
7 Halligan (BU)
6 Blair (SM)
6 Bundalo (WC)
6 Pimblett (BU)
6 Katholos (SO)
5 Trimboli (SMH)
5 Donnelly (MC)



If it's NSL action you want read it in ABSW

It really was one great big yawn



BY LACHLAN BARKER

APIA 0
SYDNEY CROATIA 0

APIA-Leichhardt and Sydney Croatia fought out a 0-0 draw at Leichhardt Oval on Sunday evening in what was a drab contest.

The game was a fairly scrappy affair dominated by a missed penalty by Croatian captain Tony Krslovic in the 85th minute.

Apia coach Manfred Schaefer was irate at the end of the game.

In essence Schaefer felt that Sydney Croatia had played a very negative and dirty game.

"That is the worst style I've ever seen, I was absolutely disgusted with that sort of game. They weren't going out there to win just to kick, kick, kick," said Schaefer.

Schaefer continued in this vein, "why would you take a creative player like Ricoy (Pedro) who is a left sided player and put him on the right flank to mark our defender.

"Not only that but he plays Krslovic in the midfield. The only place Tony can play is



up front, he is a goal-scorer."

Schaefer certainly seemed to have a point for Croatia's most dangerous player, zippy winger Jose Iriarte was substituted in the dying moments of the game apparently to protect a draw.

The reason for this change was unclear as Iriarte had been constantly troubling the Apia defence all day.

The incidents in the match that were of note were few and far between.

They mainly involved near misses and for Croatia their best chance of winning slipped away when Krslovic missed the penalty.

Hard running forward Joe Caleta went slicing through the Apia defence in the 85th minute, he toed the ball slightly ahead of himself and this encouraged Apia defender Paul Carter and goalkeeper Tony Franken to challenge for the ball.

In the ensuing ruck a foul occurred and referee Monteverde pointed to the spot.

There's no denying the penalty was controversial. Franken did seem to contact Caleta's ankles but the que-

sition was, was he going for the ball.

All comment about this incident was soon overlaid by the buzz in the crowd when Franken pulled a superlative save to deny Krslovic from the spot.

Apia's best chance came in the 62nd minute when Rino Minichiello ghosted onto a Carter cross only to see his header hit the bar.

The final comment from the players was from Croatian captain Krslovic. He laid the blame for the scrappy game on the rough and nobbly Leichhardt Oval surface.

Recently the field had been dug out to lay new drains and the surface for the match was anything but smooth.

Several attacks were destroyed at the last pass by the ball bobbling in an uncontrollable fashion.

Let us hope that the surface smoothes so the entertainment improves.

APIA-LEICHARDT: Franken, Carter, Jennings, Stewart, Bennett, Clinch, Ellem, Ollerenshaw (Budden 44m), Pomer, Minichiello (Souris 77m), Doyle.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Kalić, Runje, Zizic, Petkovic (Stanton 73m), Babic, Stipic, Iriarte (Grbevski 88m), Ricoy, Krslovic, Popovic, Caleta.

YELLOW CARDS: Runje 54m, Petkovic 66m, Iriarte 73m for Sydney Croatia.

REFEREE: Bill Monteverde.

CROWD: 3,155. **POINTS:** Iriarte 3, Pomer 2, Franken 1.



Apia goalkeeper Tony Franken.

SOCcer LIBRARY SIX PACK

6 SUPER SOCCER BOOKS

25% OFF

(FOR SIX OR MORE IN ANY COMBINATION)

Postage — 6 or more items \$6.50

— Less than 6 items \$4.30

	REGULAR PRICE	OUR PRICE	FOR ANY SIX
1 GOALKEEPERS HANDBOOK ASF publication for coaches and players	\$10.00	\$4.00	\$3.00
2 FITNESS FOR SOCCER ASF Publications for coaches	\$18.00	\$5.00	\$3.75
3 KNOWABOUT SOCCER Case bound. Step by step self instruction	\$14.95	\$14.00	\$10.50
4 WALK ALONE — The Craig Johnstone Story Case bound with dust jacket	\$29.95	\$26.00	\$19.50
5 SOCCER — AUSSIE SPORTS COACHING MANUAL Best selling manual for levels 0 and 1	\$16.00	\$12.00	
6 THE WORLD CUP Case bound with dust jacket. Huge full colour pictorial.	\$29.95	\$16.00	\$12.00

Cut out coupon and address to

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation Ltd

P.O. Box 84, Toongabbie, NSW. 2146. (02) 629 2833

Please send:

TITLE No.

No. of copies required

1 2 3 4 5 6

Postage — 6 or more \$6.50

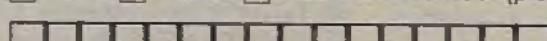
— less than 6 \$4.30

NAME

ADDRESS

STATE **P/C**

Bank, Master Visa Card Number (please indicate which)



Expiry Date

Signature

*Telephone orders accepted... 629-2833

Russell was OK!



BY FRANK ROBERTS

MELITA 0
NEWCASTLE 0

ROOKIE Newcastle goalkeeper John Russell proved to be the downfall of Melita Eagles when the teams played a scoreless draw at Melita Stadium on Sunday night.

Russell pulled out all the stops to keep Eagles at bay and here is a man with a big future ahead of him.

It was little wonder that Melita coach Raul Blanco was scratching his head in dismay as his team's goal drought continues.

Time and time again Russell stopped shots

that had 'goal' written all over them.

Russell previously made his mark in youth soccer when he went to Canada with the national under-17 side ahead of Mark Bosnich. He replaced young Michael Reda and Aytek Genc with Jarek Nowicki and Osvaldo El Ali.

All to no avail. John Koch was Newcastle's best and did well in midfield.

Newcastle striker Noel Barkley had two chances but like his Melita counterparts, failed to put them away.

Newcastle were well pleased with the draw.

Eagles had the glut of the chances but found Russell in great form.

"This kid put up a brilliant performance, what more can I say," declared coach Blanco.

"We created many chances but once again failed to put them away.

"It's beginning to become a bit of a worry."

The Eagles have scored only one goal in six outings and are still

MELITA: McPherson, Falzon, Cianter, O'Donnell, Wheatley, Callanan, Reda (Nowicki 64), Gimenez, Soper, Vial, Genc (El Ali 73).

NEWCASTLE: Russell, Maier, Heddle, Roberts, Koczka, Moffitt, Northam, Naumov (Maloney 81), Koch, Barkley, Meredith.

GOALS: Nil.

YELLOW CARDS: Nil.

REFEREE: Richard Lorenc.

CROWD: 2123.

VOTES: 3-Russell, 2-Koch, 1-Roberts.

Wollongong the brave were very unlucky not to share the points



BRANKO MILOSEVIC.



BY GREG BLAKE

MELB CROATIA 1
WOLLONGONG CITY 0

THERE was a tangible sense of relief in the Melbourne Croatia change-rooms on Sunday evening following the Victorian club's single-goal triumph over a dogged and courageous challenger in Wollongong City.

For the first time this campaign Croatia hadn't been afforded the chance to blow away an opponent at Somers Street.

Instead Croatia was forced to toil for a victory against a quality opponent, and the young breed — Silic and Pondeljak in particular, forced by circumstance into action for the match of the day, will surely come away richer for the experience.

Typically, the Wolves gave the home side little, closing down quickly all afternoon and rarely allowing Croatia the chance to play its natural game of possession football from the back.

That Croatia managed to carve out half a dozen quality chances under pressure is testimony to the character of Kenny Murphy's charges.

The winning goal came ten minutes after the interval as Pondeljak self-assuredly beat two defenders before spearing to Francis Awaritefe, who hit the crossbar from close range and followed up to clip the rebound home.

Awaritefe, fronting the young Croatian attack, was a fine leader against a Wollongong defence which has proved its worth in recent weeks and was magnificent again on Sunday led by inspirational 300-gamer Mike O'Shea and goalkeeping veteran Tony Pezzano.

Pezzano kept his side in the match on four clear-cut occasions, his best effort coming in the opening seconds of the game as he denied the running Silic with a

goal Hannah that a side which held its own in general play, as Wollongong certainly did, was allowed no more than fleeting chances to beat Croatia keeper David Miller.

The Wolves best chance of the day came on the stroke of half time as Kevin Hagan sent a shot spinning just centimetres wide of Miller's right hand upright.

Whilst Wollongong can be rightfully delighted at a performance full of merit and maturity, it is Croatia who scored the major psychological victory on the day.

As Ratcliffe had pointed out prior to the game, Croatia, without Marth, Kelic and Mori, will rarely be more vulnerable as it was on Sunday.

A win under those circumstances can only buoy Croatia for its testing road ahead as it faces the likes of Adelaide City and South Melbourne on successive weekends.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller, Donnelly, Talaric, Selimidis, Hannah, Silic, Milosevic, Biskic, Davidon, Pondeljak, Awaritefe.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Pezzano, Green, Lloyd, Horsley, Yankos, O'Shea, Bundalo, Skeen, Bate, Hagan (Brodnik 60), Smith (Morlando 80).

GOALS: Awaritefe 55m for Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Smith 25m for Wollongong.

REFEREE: D. Voutis.

CROWD: App.3,200.
VOTES: 3 - Hannah (MC), 2 - Pezzano (W), 1 - Donnelly (MC).

The great escape act!



BY ALAN CLARK

WEST ADELAIDE 2

PRESTON 2

WEST Adelaide golden boy Paul Agostino gave



Sharks fans something to savour on Sunday with a goal on debut against Preston in his Coca-Cola National Soc-

cer League debut.

But wily old coaching professional John Gardiner probably had the last laugh on the night.

Joey starlet Agostino, at the end of a week in which it was revealed Italian giants Napoli and AC Milan and PSV Eindhoven, of the Netherlands, were keeping tabs on him, was right on the spot in 61 minutes to finish off some excellent West lead-up work down the left.

His goal, following a score by Jimmy Keramidas 10 minutes earlier, looked to have given the Sharks a cushion for victory.

West had stepped up a gear and looked likely to add to its tally until Gardiner produced a couple of moves that had results coaches dream about.

He brought on gangly striker Gerry McAleer for midfielder George Petrov and Robert Momirovski for Andrew Zinni.

McAleer produced a goal out of the blue only three minutes after arriving then man of the match John Waddell accepted a tapped free-kick and belied home a 26m drive to give bat-

ting Preston a share of the spoils.

"I was delighted to see the goal go in. That was a big thrill in the debut," Agostino said. "I took a few little knocks and bumps but you have to expect that."

"The game is a fair bit faster and they swarm round you like bees when you get the ball. I was quite happy how I went. I now just want to make the side for this week."

West coach Nick Pantaras said: "We looked to have it won when we were 2-0 up

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazic, Mills (Stamatopoulos 19), Hiern, Reynolds, Slager, Vatsilas, Keramidas, Brazzale, Agostino (Briscoe 84), Santrac, Blair.

PRESTON: Trajanedes, Spasevski, Stojcevski, Jackson, Parton, Roodhouse, Petrov (McAleer 72), Trajanovski, Spink, Waddell, Zinni (Momirovski 76).

REFEREE: Mike Brown (SA).

SCORERS: West Adelaide 2 (Keramidas 51, Agostino 61) Preston 2 (McAleer 75, Waddell 79).

POINTS: 3 Waddell (Preston), 2 Reynolds (West Adelaide), 1 Trajanovski (Preston).

YELLOW CARD: Stojcevski (57).

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

PART-TIME POSITION

Illawarra Regional Coach

Remuneration negotiable

All applicants to possess a Level 3 Coaching Certificate or equivalent coaching qualifications.

- State:- 1) Coaching qualifications
- 2) Past coaching experience
- 3) Playing experience

Applications to be in writing and sent to:-

The Director of Coaching
NSW Soccer Federation
235-257 Meurants Lane
Parklea NSW 2155

Closing date:- 25th November, 1991.

CYPRUS UNITED SOCCER CLUB

COACHES WANTED

First Grade & Under 19s teams for season 1991-92.

Please apply

The Secretary
Mr George Christodoulou
C/- Cyprus
Community Club
56 Stanmore Rd,
STANMORE. NSW. 2048

Application close November 21

The biggest and the best in ABSW during the NSL season

This clash was more like a war!



BY PETROS KOSMOPOULOS

ADELAIDE CITY 2
HEIDELBERG UTD 2

ADELAIDE City reduced to nine players produced an amazing comeback to earn a 2-2 draw from Heidelberg United. Alexander at Olympic Village on Sunday afternoon in an eventful game.

Referee Alex Spiroski gave the marching orders to two Adelaide City players, Ernie Tapai and Milan Ivanovic in the second half but that seemed to encourage Zoran Matic's team which fought back with a vengeance and equalised returning to Adelaide with a well earned draw.

In fact Adelaide City could have won the game when man-of-the-match Steve Maxwell was extremely unlucky when his shot in the dying moments of the game hit the bar.

Heidelberg had taken the lead on two occasions but Adelaide City fought back and deservedly picked up a point.

Gary Cole's team did most of the attacking in the early stages of the match and came close to scoring with shots by Gary Brattan and Phil Stubbins.

But their teammate Derek Hunter had a golden opportunity in the tenth minute when from a Stubbins cross and the goal at his mercy he couldn't connect with a header.

Heidelberg's persistence paid off in the 22nd minute when Brian McNichol crossed from the right and an unmarked Stubbins sent the ball crashing to the back of the net giving Robert Zabica no chance.

The visitors fought back and dominated for the rest of the half equalising in the 31st minute.

Steve Maxwell started a move from midfield giving a through ball to Zoran Ilic who advanced to the box crossed and the advancing Maxwell had no problems sending the ball to the net with a shot.

Adelaide City scored once again in the first half but referee Alex

Spiroski disallowed the goal by Tapai who lobbed Jeff Olver.

Tapai had apparently pushed Heidelberg defender Doug Hodgson.

City was reduced to 10 men from the 46th minute after referee Spiroski sent off Tapai who clashed with Heidelberg's goalkeeper Olver.

Taking advantage of an extra player on the park Heidelberg pushed forward and was awarded a penalty in the 57th minute after Brooks had blocked with his hands a Paul Lewis shot.

Stubbins converted the penalty giving a 2-1 lead to his team.

Brooks received a yellow card for the hand-ball incident though a second City player Ivanovic received his marching orders for disputing the penalty decision with the referee.

Though Adelaide City was reduced to nine players it again fought back and equalised for a second time in the game, it was in the 64th minute when Maxwell passed to an unmarked Joe Mullen who from three yards out scored the equaliser.

In the 81st minute Heidelberg United almost took the lead again, when a McNichol shot was paved away by Zabica for a corner.

In the dying moments of the match Adelaide City almost pulled off a miraculous win when player-of-the-match Maxwell let loose a powerful shot which rattled the post.

HEIDELBERG ALEXANDER: Olver, Brattan, Hodgson, Cranney, Stubbins, Van Egmond, Hunter, Iliopoulos (Rizopoulos 80m), McNichol, Lewis, Goutzoulis.

SCORERS: Stubbins 22m, 57m for Heidelberg, Maxwell 31m, Mullen 64m for Adelaide City.

YELLOW CARDS: Stubbins 41m for Heidelberg, Brooks 58m, Ilic 76m for Adelaide.

RED CARDS: Tapai 46m, Ivanovic 58m for Adelaide.

REFEREE: Alex Spiroski.

CROWD: 2,500.

POINTS: Maxwell 3, Stubbins 2, Brattan 1.



Heidelberg goalie Jeff Olver.

Yet another scalp for Brisbane



BY GUY HAND

BRISBANE 2
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

BRISBANE United turned from big-hearted fighters into serious contenders with a courageous 2-0 NSL victory over Sydney Olympic at Perry Park on Sunday.

Despite several trips to the canvas early in the second half, United weathered a storm of Sydney Olympic's best shots to claim another big name scalp and cement a top five berth.

Rookie striker Chris Slater and John Brown scored United's goals, but the NSL newcomers had to work hard for their win, especially in defence.

After Slater's brilliantly taken header in the 42nd minute from a Clayton Koch cross, Sydney Olympic pummelled United's goal for the first 25 minutes of the second half in search of a equaliser.

But Olympic frittered away enough op-

portunities to win a season of games — the best falling to boom striker Tim Bredbury in the 70th minute.

Bredbury found himself in the six yard box with an open goal after United 'keeper Mirko Runje stopped but failed to gather in a long-range shot.

But Bredbury put the ball wide with the goal at his mercy.

Teenage United defender Glen Gwynne kept the NSL's leading scorer quiet for much of the game, although Bredbury did show flashes of brilliance.

Bredbury's deft turn and 20-yard pass in the first half to put Gary Phillips on goal was all class.

But in what was to be the taste of things to come, Phillips' shot was cleared off the line by Alan Hunter.

While Olympic's boom striker was sent home goalless, United's forward surprise packet Slater continued to impress, with his perfectly-taken goal just reward for his efforts.

After grabbing the

lead, United defended grimly early in the second half, with Runje saving and his defenders blocking attempt after attempt on goal.

Olympic midfielder Peter Katholos was in the thick of everything — his side having 10 clear strikes on goal in the first 25 minutes of the second half.

But United then started to make the most of Olympic's attempts to snare an equaliser.

With their biggest crowd of the season urging them on, United created several good chances late in the half

on the counter-attack with Olympic caught with men forward.

A cross from the tireless Danny Halligan gave Koch a great chance to put United 2-0 up, but defender Robert Hooker cleared the ball off the line.

Substitute Carl Jorgenson had United's best chance after good work from Frank Mengotti and Brown, but he pushed the ball inches wide from inside the box.

Brown sealed the game for United in the final minute when he collected a long ball,

beat the defence and shot over 'keeper Gary Meier.

BRISBANE UNITED: Runje, Hengotti, Bullock, Gwynne, A Hunter, Cahill, Pimblett, Halligan, Koch, Slater (Jorgenson), Brown.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Sorras (Cardozo), Augerinos, Hooker, D Bennett, Ironside, Tskeenis, Katholos, Phillips, Bredbury, Nastevski.

REFEREE: George Dunster.

CAUTIONS: Brisbane: Brown.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Hooker, Bennett, Phillips.

BEST PLAYERS: Runje 3, Halligan 2, Katholos 1.

CROWD: 3012.

Hey Kids! Want to Play Soccer Overseas?

You could play soccer with Aussie Roo!

AUSSIE ROO needs players for his forthcoming international soccer tours! So if you're between 10 and 15 years old, and would like the opportunity to play international soccer, then AUSSIE wants to hear from you, NOW! Applications for these tours are closing soon, so ask your Mum or Dad to call today.

Tour #1 — Dallas Cup XIII — April, 1992 Texas, U.S.A.
Tour #2 — Gothia Cup — July, 1992 Goteborg, SWEDEN.
Tour #3 — Sacramento Gold Cup — August, 1992 California, U.S.A.

* Tours #1 and #3 include a fantastic trip to Disneyland... so give it a try!

Contact:
Glenn Whitford
Bus: (02) 742 5577
A.H. (02) 682 6889

Terry Smith
(02) 681 2776 (All hours)



Match of season about to blast off

BY
ALISTAIR RUSSELL

YET another massive crowd is expected to thread their way along to Hindmarsh again this Sunday when table-topping Adelaide City and Melbourne Croatia meet in the match of the season to date.

The equal leaders have had an outstanding start to this campaign, level on points and identical goal differences, the two sides are separated on the ladder by alphabetical order alone.

The two clubs have continued on their merry way despite the absence of key players in recent matches.

Unbeaten City fought back from the brink of defeat at Heidelberg, displaying tremendous character to take a point with just nine men.

The home side will surely struggle with Milan Ivanovich and Ernie Tapai out suspended following the Heidelberg debacle, along with key men Carl Verart and Tony Vidmar on National duty.

Melbourne Croatia on the other hand got their act together to

down the difficult Wollongong on Sunday, Francis Awaritefe again proving his worth, taking over the massive responsibility up front, while in form striker Ivan Kelic remains injured.

The visitors' key defender Andrew Marth is expected to resume training this week, but remains in doubt for the match, while Damian Mori is still out on Olympic duty.

Without four vital players, City's 100% record at Hindmarsh may take a tumble when Kenny Murphy's talented charges roll into town.

South Melbourne should take another step closer to the top, when they resume against Heidelberg, in the vital Greek derby clash at Middle Park.

The weeks absence of the league's most exciting outfit, due to the postponement of the Marconi fixture, should have little effect on Puskas' juggernaut, that boasts 14 goals in just three matches on their home patch.

With such lights as Kim Taliadoros threatening to run away with the golden boot award, ably supported by the talented Peter Tsolakis and Paul Trimboli in attack, the Bergers could

be in for a nightmare afternoon.

Heidelberg, while sitting respectfully in mid table, have won only one of their last five matches and should have punished the depleted Adelaide City on Sunday.

Nothing less than a convincing win for the home side looks possible here, with another substantial crowd expected in to witness the slaughter.

The goal drought may continue at Brandon Park this weekend, when top five sides Wollongong City and Brisbane United do battle.

The football hungry South Coast fans have witnessed just one goal in three matches, including two scoreless draws at the Wolves home this season.

While Claude Cellini should return from suspension for the home side, Charlie Yankos' appearance will depend solely on this weeks tribunal appeal against a further match suspension for the former Soccerroo captain.

Both Brisbane and Wollongong have surprised all with their fine start to the season, just one defeat for both, by league leaders Melbourne Croatia.

Brisbane can expect the going tough up front, the miserly Wolves defence has conceded a miserly two goals to date, and a low score draw looks likely.

The unpredictable Sydney Olympic could miss as many as five players when they visit the out of form Sydney Croatia.

While both Grant Lee and Andrew Bernal remain in doubt after pulling out of the Brisbane match at the 11th hour, young elegant midfielder Peter Tsekenis may be ruled out through suspension, while Steve Refenes and Eric Hristodoulou remain on the Barcelona mission.

While Olympic hover just outside the top five, they have won only one match in their last four outings and rely far too heavily on Tim Bredbury to save their bacon week in, week out.

Croatia are in the same boat, only one point collected from their three home games to date, however, unbeaten in their last three starts.

If Olympic can get Lee and Bernal back onto the pitch, the visitors should take both points from the Sports Centre.

In other matches, Newcastle at home should account for West Adelaide, while a draw looks a safe bet when APIA entertain Melita.

THIS WEEKS' GAMES

Newcastle BHP	v West Adelaide	Austral Park
Sth Melb Hellas	v Heidelberg Utd	Middle Park
Apia Leichhardt	v Melita Eagles	Leichhardt Oval
Wollongong City	v Brisbane Utd	Brandon Park
Adelaide City	v Melbourne Croatia	Hindmarsh Stad.
Sydney Croatia	v Sydney Oly	Croatian Spts C.

AVALON SOCCER CLUB

'PREMIER LEAGUE COACH'

Avalon Soccer Club is looking for a dynamic self motivated person to coach its Premier League team in 1992.

The successful person will have expenses paid as well as receiving reimbursement for travel costs if living out of the area.

Avalon is one of three largest Clubs in the Manly Warringah district with some forty teams in 1991 ranging from Premier League down to six year old sub juniors.

In our ranks we still have as a player Ken Malama who took the Clubs Premier League to Champion of Champions winners as Captain Coach back in the seventies. The Club recently held its annual general meeting and a full committee has been elected to ready the Club for 1992 and beyond. The Club also has excellent facilities with two full sized fields at its disposal as well as two change rooms with hot showers and a social room for gatherings.

Would interested persons please apply to the President Colin MacAlister
Avalon Soccer Club
P.O. Box 425 AVALON 2107.

(02) 973 1813

for further information



Adelaide City star Ernie Tapai

YOUTH LEAGUES Northern

RESULTS

Round 6

Apia Leichhardt 2, Sydney Croatia 1.

Melita Eagles 3, Newcastle Breakers 2.

St George 1, Highfields Azzum 0.

Adamstown Rosebuds 1, Wollongong Macedonia 1.

Sydney Olympic 4, AIS 2.

Marconi 3, Sydney Olympic Colts 1.

Sydney Croatia Colts 1, Wollongong City 1.

Melita Eagles had some heart-stopping moments before continuing on their winning way, while both Sydney Croatia and the AIS suffered their first defeats for the season.

Round 6 also saw St George and Adamstown Rosebuds record their first points after a win and a draw respectively.

With six wins on the trot, Melita Eagles are settling down as one of the pacesetters.

Southern

RESULTS

Saturday, Nov 9

Morwell Falcons 0, South Melbourne Hellas 5.

Preston Makedonia 3, Heidelberg United Colts 0.

Sunday, Nov 10

Sunshine George Cross 5, Springvale City 0.

Heidelberg United 2, Brunswick United Juniors 1.

Fawkner 0, Melbourne Croatia Colts 5.

South Melbourne Hellas Colts 3, Altona Gate 0.

Melbourne Croatia 5, Croydon City 1.

Round 6 of the National Youth League (Southern Division) produced some high-scoring games

The top five positions on the ladder remain unchanged with Preston Makedonia and Heidelberg United on eleven points, followed by Melbourne Croatia, Croydon City and Sunshine George Cross.

STATE WOMENS COACHES QLD 1992

Under 16, Under 19, Open Quals — Prefer Level 3

Applications close November 25

P.O. Box 196 Spring Hill 4004
Airfare & Accommodation expenses only

VACANCY — PROMOTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Applications are sought for anyone wishing to be considered for the full-time position of Promotions and Development Officer for the New South Wales Amateur Soccer Federation Ltd.

The position is an interesting and varied one responsible for further developing promotional activities throughout New South Wales.

The successful applicant should ideally have a high profile within the sport, be a good speaker, well organised and be qualified as a coach. They also need to have good writing skills and be able to communicate with people at all levels.

Whilst there are a number of promotional programmes in place, the new occupant should have many fresh promotional ideas that can also be implemented and relevant experience in this type of work will be a definite advantage.

Applications including relevant background should be sent to:

The General Manager
New South Wales Amateur Soccer Federation Ltd
P.O. Box 84
TOONGABIE NSW 2146

to arrive by Friday November 29, 1991.



SYDNEY CROATIA 2
PARRA MELITA 1BY FRANK
SCICLUNA

NSL cup holders Parramatta Melita can justly feel hard done by in relinquishing their hold on the trophy when they were knocked out by Sydney Croatia after looking the better side and dominating much of the second half at the Marconi Stadium on Wednesday night.

With the game looking destined to go into extra time and Croatia thankful for substitute goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac in keeping them on level terms with a number of super saves, tricky striker Jose Iriarte picked up a loose ball on the left flank with just four minutes remaining, worked his way into the box and surprised Melita keeper Alex McPherson with a low shot which slid under his body after looking to have it safely covered.

Following such a committed display in which they finally showed glimpses of the attractive football for which they were renowned last season, it was a hard pill for Melita to swallow, the only consolation being that on this form it will not be long before results in the league begin to go their way.

Croatia for their part were relieved to progress into the next round following the poor

start they had to the season with the impressive Kalac proving beyond all doubt that he will be more than an able deputy in the absence of regular keeper Mark Bosnich while he's away with the Olympic team.

An evenly contested first half in which both sides were prepared to go forward in search of goals started well enough for Croatia. Former youth Socceroo Robert Stanton tried his luck from 20 metres out with a vicious volley after just eight minutes and although McPherson did well to block his shot, Stanton himself picked up the crumbs and neatly tucked away the rebound to give his side an early breakthrough.

Melita to their credit maintained their composure and brushed that setback aside without a hint of panic, which brought its reward ten minutes later with an equaliser from Marshall Soper. Young Croatia defender Ante Zizic made a desperate clearance under pressure, but it only cannoned off team-mate Mark Babic for the ball to fall perfectly into the path of Soper, who made no mistake from eight metres out.

With the Eagles slowly beginning to get on top, Lenny Vial shot wide when in a good position and impressive young striker Michael Reda forced an instinctive save from Kalac just before the interval.

The further the second period went, the more Melita dominated with first Hugo Giménez,

then Andy Callanan again bringing the best out of Kalac. In one of the few times Croatia threatened, Mike Grbevski and Tony Popovic combined well to send Iriarte through only for McPherson to spot the danger and smother what looked a certain goal.

Substitutes Jarek Nowicki and Osvaldo El Ali caused the Croatia defence even more headaches when they were thrown into battle, giving the rampaging Eagles more width in attack but with the game slowly edging towards extra-time Croatia managed to first survive, then create the opportunity for Iriarte to conjure up his surprise and perhaps undeserved winner.

Although Melita were understandably devastated to surrender their hold on the cup at such an early stage of the competition, their fans can take heart from their performance while Sydney Croatia can be more than a little thankful that lady luck has finally smiled upon them.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Kalac, Runje, Zizic, Stanton (Jurin 70m), Babic, Stipic, Iriarte, Ricoy (Petkovic 83m), Krslovic, Popovic, Grbevski.

PARRAMATTA MELITA: McPherson, Falzon, Ciantar, O'Donnell, Wheatey, Callanan, Reda, Gimenez, Soper (Nowicki 55m), Genc, Vial (El Ali 73m).

GOALS: Stanton 8m, Iriarte 87m for Croatia, Soper 18m for Melita.

YELLOW CARD: Babic 80m for Croatia.

REFEREE: Richard Lorenc.

CROWD: 1673.



Melita goalkeeper Alex McPherson.

Brisbane youngsters strike terror in shaky Apia defence

BY GUY HAND

APIA Leichhardt coach Manfred Schaefer rated Brisbane United striker Chris Slater one of the best forwards in the NSL after United's 2-1 NSL Cup victory over the Sydney side in extra-time in Brisbane last Wednesday.

Schaefer said Slater, 21, and his striking partner Clayton Koch could

walk into any team in the NSL after their performance in United's win.

Slater was electric for United, but seemed destined for a goalless night after Apia keeper Brett Hughes and the woodwork took turns at denying him what looked certain goals.

Hughes, standing in for former Socceroo keeper Tony Franken stopped a point-blank Slater volley from a Sean Cranney cross in the 26th minute, before

the bar denied the United striker a goal in the final minute of normal time.

Slater's header hit the bar with Hughes stranded after good lead-up work from busy midfielder Frank Pimblett and Carl Jorgensen.

But the former Mackay forward made amends in the eighth minute of extra-time with the scores still deadlocked.

The diminutive striker leapt high in the box to meet an Alan Hunter

chip and made the most of a rebound to give United a 1-0 lead.

Four minutes later, Pimblett gave United an unassailable lead with a header from a Craig Collins headed cross.

But while Slater, Koch and Pimblett were starring in attack for Brisbane, stand-in goalkeeper Rob Farrow was pulling off a series of brilliant saves in both normal time and extra-time to keep his side in the match.

None was more vital

than Farrow's penalty save from Darren Stewart in the second period of extra-time.

Apia netted a late consolation goal through Graham Jennings with less than a minute remaining, but coach Schaefer was not impressed with his side's performance.

"I thought we had enough ball in the game to win, but they took their chances better," Schaefer said.

"We didn't seem to show the same urgency they displayed."

But Schaefer said Apia's best scoring chance came early in the match when Rod Brown found the post in the 13th minute.

But Brown went off injured soon after, leaving Scott Ollerenshaw to shoulder most of the work up front.

BRISBANE UNITED: Farrow, Gwyne, Bullock, Williams, A Hunter, Cranney (Collins), Pimblett, Halligan, Jorgensen (Caput), Koch, Slater.

APIA: Hughes, McQuarrie, Jennings, Stewart, Bennett, Clinch, Ellem, Ollerenshaw, Brown (Minicelli), Miranda, Carter (Doyle).

Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat



Oh, Frankie!



FRANK FARINA

FRANK Farina could be headed back for Belgium in a shock move that will end his brief and unhappy career in Italy!

Italian media reports suggest that it is only a matter of days before Farina heads back to his former club, FC Brugge.

Farina has been dropped from the line-up for their last three matches as Bari, dead last in the Italian First Division, try to find that elusive winning formula.

Rumour has it that when Zvonimir Boban joins Bari this week, ostensibly to replace injured Brazilian striker Joao Paulo, he will be accompanied by a former Yugoslav national team-mate.

Bari are said to be negotiating with Red Star

Belgrade for the services of their disatisfied goal poacher Darko Pancev.

Several other strikers are also being mentioned.

While the press speculates on their identity, there seems to be unanimity on one point: Farina will go.

Farina, of course, is being made the scapegoat for Bari's horror season.

Without proper service — and he has received no service at all this season — Farina is unable to display the qualities that have made him famous in Belgium.

In a Bari team where it has been every man to himself, he has been forced to roam all over the field to even get a sniff of the ball.

Watch this space for further developments

— LOU GAUTIER



Vlado Bozinoski in action against Argentina.

★ Hackett makes it a treble ★

WERRIBEE City's Steve Hackett has taken off his third successive Victorian State League first division best and fairest player award.

The Werribee skipper is the first player to complete a hat-trick of State League best player awards for two decades.

Hackett will be presented with his trophy at the Victorian Soccer Federation AGM on November 28.

Other Victorian State League best and fairest winners for 1991 are: Jim Maclean of Richmond (division two), Rocky Santangelo of Clayton (division three) and Maurice Bissetto of Regent (division four).

These Aussies are making headlines

BY LOU GAUTIER

AUSSIES were again amongst the goals in Europe last week.

Vlado Bozinoski, finally in tip-top physical condition, scored in the 89th minute when his club, Beira Mar, trounced Paco de Ferreira 3-0.

Bozinoski was transferred from Sporting Lisbon back to Beira Mar this season.

Beira Mar was the club the former Melbourne JUST midfielder joined when he moved from FC Brugge in May 1989.

Bozinoski's season at Sporting was marred by an unlucky run of injuries and a costly sending off which made him lose his first team berth just as he was starting to fire in the crack Lisbon team's star-studded line-up.

Vieri

In Italy, young Christian Vieri is also in the news.

The 18-year-old son of former Marconi star Roberto Vieri, who holds dual Italo-Aus-

tralian citizenship, drew raves notices from the hard-to-please Italian press when he not only scored for Torino, but was also amongst their best players in a 2-0 Cup win over Lazio.

Vieri is eligible to play for Australia provided, of course, Italy don't snap him up first.

Unfortunately, he will be too old for inclusion in the Young Socceroos' squad for the 1993 World Cup finals in Australia.

Slater

Robbie Slater added to his goal tally when he netted the equaliser for his French side Lens in their 1-1 home draw with Cannes.

Slater scored in the 41st minute to cancel out a 35th minute strike by Jean Priou.

Lens, would you believe, have drawn 11 of their 16 First Division games so far this season?

Slater was singled out as Lens' busiest player, and he was also rated Player of the Match the previous week, against Monaco.

Also of interest to Australian fans, in Holland former Marconi

Kiwi international Fred de Jong has recaptured his very best form after being sidelined for several months with a groin injury.

De Jong celebrated his return with a 21st minute goal in Fortuna Sittard's 2-2 draw with Vitesse Arnhem last week.

Polak

And also in the Dutch First Division, Jason Polak is back in the first team squad of De Graafschap Doetingen.

He too missed several weeks through injury.

In Belgium, Young Socceroos Paul Okon and Lorenz Kindtner are still plying their trade in FC Brugge's reserves and at Mechelen there is still no sign of Zlatko Arambasic moving up from the second team.

FOOTNOTE: Two members of the Australian Under 17 World Cup team — Paul Agostino and Alex Kiratzoglou — are on their way to Europe. Agostino will join PSV in Holland while Kiratzoglou has signed for FC Brugge.

PERSONALITY

★ ★ ★ **PLAYER** ★ ★ ★

*** BRAD MALONEY ***
(Newcastle Breakers)



NAME: Brad Maloney
BIRTHPLACE: Sydney
MARITAL STATUS: Single
POSITION: Striker/midfielder
D.O.B.: 19.1.72
AGE: 19
CLUB HISTORY: Apia 1990-91; AIS 1988-90.
REPRESENTATIVE HISTORY: 1991 — Aust. School Boys/Aust. Youth, 1987 — NSW U15, 1988 — NSW CHS, NSW All Schools, Aust. schoolboys USA, UK tour, 1989 — AIS Scholarship Holder, ACT Schoolboys, NSW Youth Team, 1990-1991 — Australian Youth Team.
FAVOURITED POSITION: Striker/midfielder.
FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYER: Jean-Pierre Papin.
MOST INSPIRED SOCCER MOMENT: Australia v USSR Youth Cup Portugal 1991.
BIGGEST INFLUENCE IN CAREER: David Lee, Ron Smith.
FUTURE GOALS: To play for the Socceroos.

Aussie Roos head for US

TWO Australian junior teams will compete for the first time in the international Dallas Soccer Cup in the United States.

Tour organiser Glenn Whitford said the invitation to Australia was the first in the Cup's 13-year history.

The Australian teams will consist of under 12 and under 14 players who will be known as the "Aussie Roos."

Whitford said the Under 14 division included teams from England, France, Scotland, Argentina and Peru while the Under 12 section featured the Soviet Union, France, Wales, Argentina and Peru.

Selection trials for the Australian teams will be held later this month.



GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES

Now the real hard work starts for Murph

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR rookie Melbourne Croatia boss Kenny Murphy, the real coaching assignment starts now.

Croatia, the beaten grand finalist in 1990/91, has had its dream start to the new campaign shattered after serious injuries to two of its star performers.

Now Murphy, who could afford the luxury of four successive unchanged line-ups during the first four rounds, will be forced to call on all his expertise if his side is to come through what promises to be a testing month of action.

Without key target man Ivan Kelic and defensive strong man Andrew Marth, it's a tall order.

Following defeat at the hands of Olympic nine days ago and a testing home game against surprise-packet Wollongong last Sunday, Croatia now faces Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium and bogey side South Melbourne at Somers Street to round off November.

And if Murphy's side is still within striking distance of top spot coming into December, he'll have passed his first true test as an NSL coach.

Murphy fires up at the thought of any coach being judged in situations such as the one he finds himself confronting.

"I suppose it depends very much on a perception of what a coach is", he says.

"A coach cannot miraculously come up with a miracle cure in this type of situation.

"With Marth out I might bring in Mark Talajic in his place at centre half and, as good a player as Talajic is, he is not as good as Marth in



MARK TALAJIC

that role.

"Obviously, the team is weakened there."

"It's the same without Kelic."

"You might bring in Pondeljak, who is a player with potential, but he is not immediately going to be as effective as Kelic."

"Regardless of what I do, I cannot make them as good as the players that they are replacing."

Murphy says that expecting the same performance levels from what are essentially peripheral players is grossly unfair to any coach.

"I couldn't, for example, take Thomastown into the NSL", says the former Thomastown coach.

"As they were, the players there simply weren't good enough."

"When you've got that bit of an upset (in the team) you go from having a team with potentially the best players in the country to just a competitive team."

"From there it's a matter of trying to keep winning with what you've got."

"As I see it, the coach's role is to try and best organise and motivate the team as it is."

"My job is to establish who are the best possible replacement players and whether we need to change our formation or the way we play to accommodate the changes."

"But when it comes down to it, if the team is not good enough it

won't win".

Not that the former Melbourne City, South Melbourne and Melbourne Croatia star doesn't believe in the ability of his fringe players to do the job.

Damian Mori, who Murphy says is "first cab off the rank", is a quality player in his own right and would probably walk into just about any other NSL side.

"I'm pleased that the squad is so strong", he explained.

"Having depth is important and we're having ours tested right now."

"But I think we'll come through it OK."

"Young Joe Bacak (who scored two cracking goals in the first round cup win over Heidelberg) is very keen and enthusiastic at training."

"Mark Silic is a much improved player and Ollie (Pondeljak) has looked more and more impressive after looking a bit overawed when he first started training with the club."

Of the injured stars, Kelic, club top scorer last season, could be missing for up to two months, whilst Marth is at least another fortnight from returning.

Both players were injured during a torrid 3-1 NSL Cup tie win against Heidelberg.

Kelic had his jaw fractured in two places and lost two teeth and Marth tore a quadricep muscle in his left leg.

Despite the injuries Croatia, thanks to its younger brigade, still got over the line with Pondeljak and Bacak, whose late double ensured a second round cup meeting with Preston, sharing the goalscoring honours.

"I think we'll come through the crisis in-

tact", says Murphy.

"Before the Olympic game you could look at the month ahead and say that we might be facing four defeats."

"But I have no doubt that we fielded as good a side as Olympic,

it's just that I think Olympic looked a little more desperate on the day.

"Perhaps we need to get that type of desperation into our game and that will be something that perhaps I can work

on. "It's a long season ahead, and we were going to get beaten eventually."

"But I have no doubt that we will overcome the problems of the moment".



Former Melbourne Croatia striker Joe Caleta.

Spink blasts critics

BY GREG BLAKE

NATIONAL team striker Warren Spink has hit out in defence of Preston coach John Gardiner, whose job is apparently on the line after the club's dismal start to the season.

Spink claims that Preston is not far away from turning things around and that Gardiner is crucial to the side's chances.

"John is one of the best (coaches) in the league", says Spink.

"He's done a terrific job under difficult circumstances — people forget that we've lost Oscar Crino, George Jolevski and now Robbie Markovac from last season."

"At the same time he has bought on young

players like Spasevski, Trajanovski, Stojevski and Bekiaris and it is only a matter of time before things improve."

"He's not a defensive coach as everyone says — he puts no restrictions on the players going forward."

"He is a good, well-organised coach".

According to the pint-sized front-man, Preston was always going to find it tough without the likes of Crino and Jolevski, with the only experienced new man in being John Waddell.

And even the good judges admit that Preston, last season's beaten cup finalist, hasn't had much luck in 1991/92 to date.

In three successive games, Preston has drawn the short straw, losing to the odd injury-time goal against New-

castle, hitting the woodwork twice before conceding an own goal at Apia and then missing a penalty in a scoreless draw with Melita Eagles.

"Sure, the results could be a lot better", says Spink.

"But the South Melbourne game aside, we really have been playing quite well."

"People forget that we spend two thirds of last season in the top three and we made the cup final."

"What makes me confident that we can turn it around is that the squad is not that much different to last year and we are only a player or two short of being a good side again."

"It's really not fair to judge us yet."

"After ten games or so is the time to make a real evaluation".

PASCOE VALE
SPORTSCENE

THE GENERAL SPORTS STORE SPECIALISING IN SOCCER
413-415 BELL ST. PASCOE VALE ST. Ph. 354 2791
CLUB DISCOUNTS on * Gear * Trophies * General Engraving & Printing

PASCOE VALE
SPORTSCENE

Bleiberg got a real warm welcome on his return to Melbourne Croatia

BY GREG BLAKE

THE reaction of Melbourne Croatia fans to the Melbourne return of Brisbane United coach Miron Bleiberg was quite remarkable.

As Bleiberg led his team down the race at Somers Street when the teams did battle in round three, the Croatia fans warmly, if not with enthusiasm, gave the former Melbourne coach a round of applause.

It has been five years since Bleiberg was leading the then struggling Melbourne Croatia to a string of post-season and pre-season Victorian cup victories.

But if Bleiberg's humble achievements have been forgotten, he obviously has not been.

He's that sort of a bloke.

"It was a very warm welcome back to my old home", says Bleiberg, obviously in a curiously reflective mood.

"It was very flattering for both the team and I to be applauded.

"I had a good time at Melbourne Croatia and it is nice to know that the fans and I still remember each other fondly".

The now resident Queenslander, who has the propensity to agitate as much as motivate, is the journalist's dream.

With the cocky self-confidence of a Don King or Ron Casey, Bleiberg calls the shots as he sees them, using his often tongue-in-cheek remarks as a promotional tool, a fact probably not lost on a fledgling Brisbane hie



Coach Bleiberg

rachy desperate to make inroads in the tough Queensland sporting market.

If Bleiberg's sharp wit and even sharper tongue can't win over the Banana-benders, the game is in desperate trouble up north.

But if the challenge of kicking the game into Brisbane is troubling him, the pressure isn't telling on him.

Indeed, the tanned and taut 1991 Bleiberg seems at his most relaxed in his new surroundings.

"I think my attitude these days makes it easier for me to relax", he says.

"I know the pressure of being a coach is great, but mainly so for those whose livelihood and family is dependent on the success.

"Obviously it is tough, because only one team can win and be at the top of the ladder each year.

"But I am quite independent from a financial point of view and my approach to soccer has changed over the years.

"I'm more mature now. Not that I'm taking it easy at all, but these days I try to remember that it is, after all, a matter of sport and entertainment".

If the success of Brisbane hinges on his performance, he doesn't dwell on it.

His life with his family in Queensland is, he says, quite wonderful and the comfort of his surrounds obviously sits well with him.

But he is a passionate believer in the Brisbane NSL expansion.

"If soccer wants to succeed on a truly national basis the success of Queensland is a must", he told ABSW.

"I believe there is enough support for soccer in Queensland for it to thrive.

"Our team has players from Mackay, Townsville and Cairns and the more players we produce the more we will prove the point that Queensland soccer is strong.

"Look at recent exports like Farina, Jackson, Wright and Corica — the list is potentially unlimited.

"In two to three years Brisbane will be one of the top sides in the NSL and whoever will be the coach at that time will be the lucky one".

If Bleiberg can preach the soccer gospel with the best of them, he can be equally pragmatic in his evaluation of the current side, a side almost thrown together pre-season when United was invited to compete in the NSL.

When he is not trying to promote the game for the sake of bums on seats, Bleiberg is expansive on the shortcomings of his own side.

"As a coach, you and your committee must sit down and set some goals before the season", he explained.

"Our initial goal is to do what we promised the commissioners we would do when we were admitted to the NSL, and that is to be a competitive side.

"At the moment we are closer to the top than the bottom so we are even more competitive than I expected.

"But our guideline was not to finish in either of the two bottom places and not to get beaten by more than two goals in any game.

"That is what I call the difference between a humiliation and a reasonable result.

"At this time we are still standing by our word".



South Melbourne players celebrate.

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR high-flying South Melbourne Hellas, the true test of its quality as a genuine title threat starts now.

It faces the next month with only half of its first-choice central defensive team of Steve Blair and Mehmet Durakovic following Blair's hamstring tear in the club's dismal cup tie defeat at the hands of Preston.

But according to Durakovic, the absence of the champion South Melbourne games record-holder will not signal the demise of the reigning champions.

"Sure, it will be hard to fill his shoes", says the courageous Durakovic of his partner in crime.

"But Paul is a good player in his own right and I'm sure he'll be able to do a job for us", he says of stand-in Paul Fernandes.

Fernandes has been lured off the Hellas transfer-list after he had requested a move after being frustrated by the lack of senior football.

But his return — in a 3-0 drubbing of the

Adelaide Sharks — clearly underlined the depth of the current South Melbourne squad as it chases successive NSL titles.

Depth that will, says Durakovic, hold the Melbourne title-holders on course for another tilt at the championship.

"It's certainly a good squad and in my mind potentially better than last year", he told ABSW.

"We've got enough good players to fill in two really good teams.

"That's why everyone is always on their toes these days.

"Players know that if they are not doing their jobs well, they are out of the side and someone else is in".

Durakovic himself should hold no fears of retaining his first team place.

A crowd favourite at Middle Park, his commitment to the cause — although never really in doubt — has never been more apparent than in recent times as he has once again battled against injury.

His on-going groin problems are well documented, not so well known is the fact he played on after fracturing

ring his hand after crashing to the ground in a rout of Apia at Middle Park.

Typically, he shrugs off the problems.

"I've always had the groin problems and you get used to playing with them, so it's not affecting me", he explained.

"My hand is a bit dislocated but apart from that I feel fine.

"My game is 100 percent tackling and winning the ball.

"I'm not very skilled at all so I just stay in there doing the best at what I'm good at".

Durakovic says people would be very foolish to write off the Hellas challenge on the strength of Blair's injury or any early-season hiccups.

"The motivation is to win back-to-back titles", he says.

"The boys all know that each week everyone wants to beat us and that is enough encouragement to go out each week and show that we are the best.

"I know that last year Melbourne Croatia out-played us for most of the grand final but we won it and we are the champions.

"This season we want to go out and prove it".

Cilauro will stand

BY GREG BLAKE

LONG-serving Victorian Soccer Federation chairman Vito Cilauro has reaffirmed his commitment to standing for a further two-year term in office.

Encouraged by his board's recent success in convincing VSF member clubs to adopt a finals series for the

Premier League in 1992, Cilauro is keen to stay on as chairman in a bid to push through further radical reforms in Victoria.

A priority on his agenda is the switch to a six or seven person commission to run the affairs of Victorian soccer, a reform which was rejected by the current 14-person board of management earlier this year.

In discussing the changing face of Victo-

rian soccer, Cilauro has revealed his disappointment at what he terms as selfish clubs voting on motions on the basis of purely club interest.

"I can imagine that if we had voted on motion number two, relating to the commissioners, we would have more problems than we did with the issue of finals", he told ABSW.

"But that won't prevent me from going back for a second, third

or fourth time to get the motion through".

In an exclusive interview with ABSW, Cilauro has revealed his disappointments and his achievements as chairman and why he is determined to stay on for another term at the helm as Victorian soccer goes through a period of dramatic change.

All the thoughts of chairman Cilauro are in an ABSW exclusive next week.

**LIVE NSL BROADCASTS
EVERY WEEKEND ON
1503 3AK'S SUPER
SOCCER SUNDAY**

* Join ABSW's Greg Blake and the rest of the team each week as they describe the action from the match of the round *

Review show 10pm-12 Sunday nights

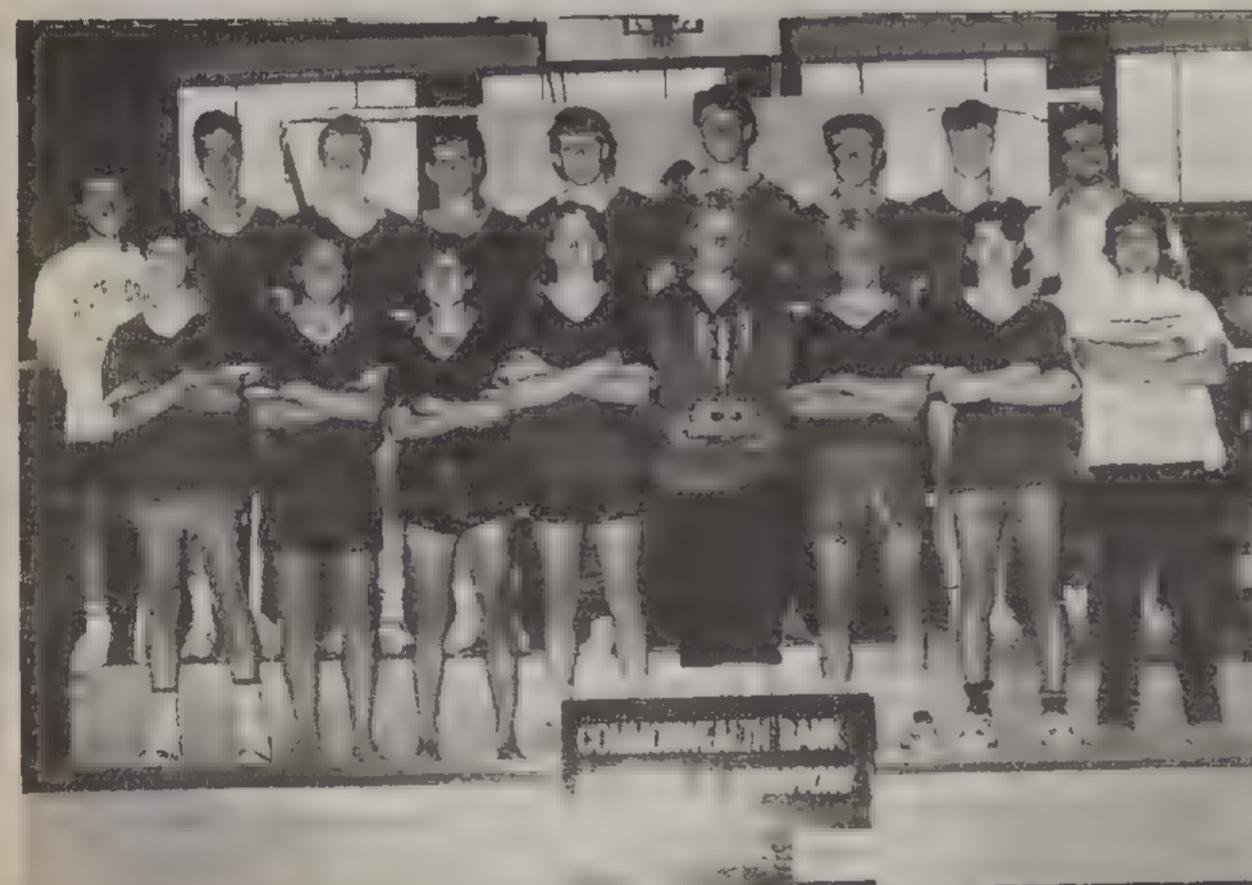
CHAMPIONS



All Age Winners Greenacre (Bankstown)



Under 21 Winners Chullora (Bankstown)



Under 18 Winners Marayong Sports (Blacktown)



Under 17 Winners CSI (Blacktown)

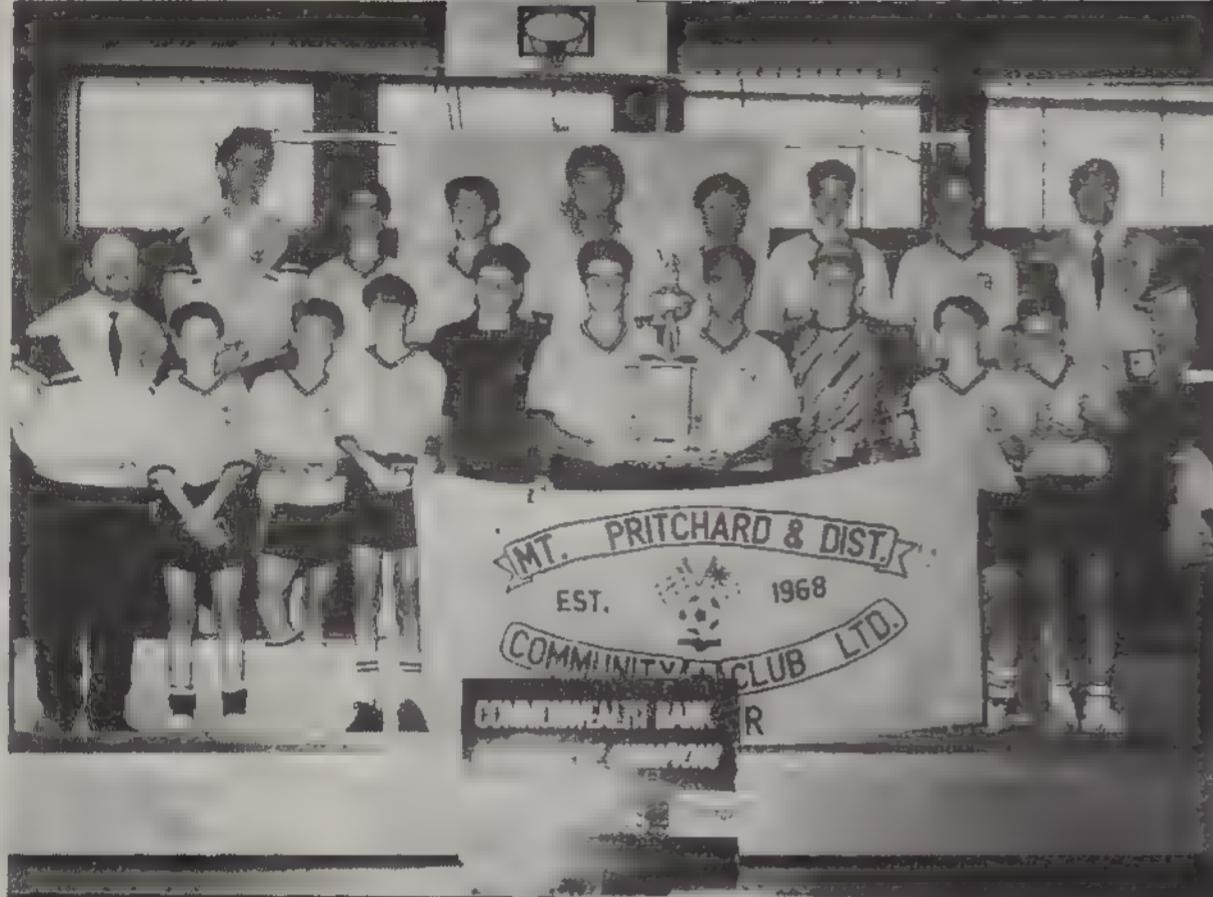


Under 16 Winners North Shore Hellas (Ku-ring-gai)

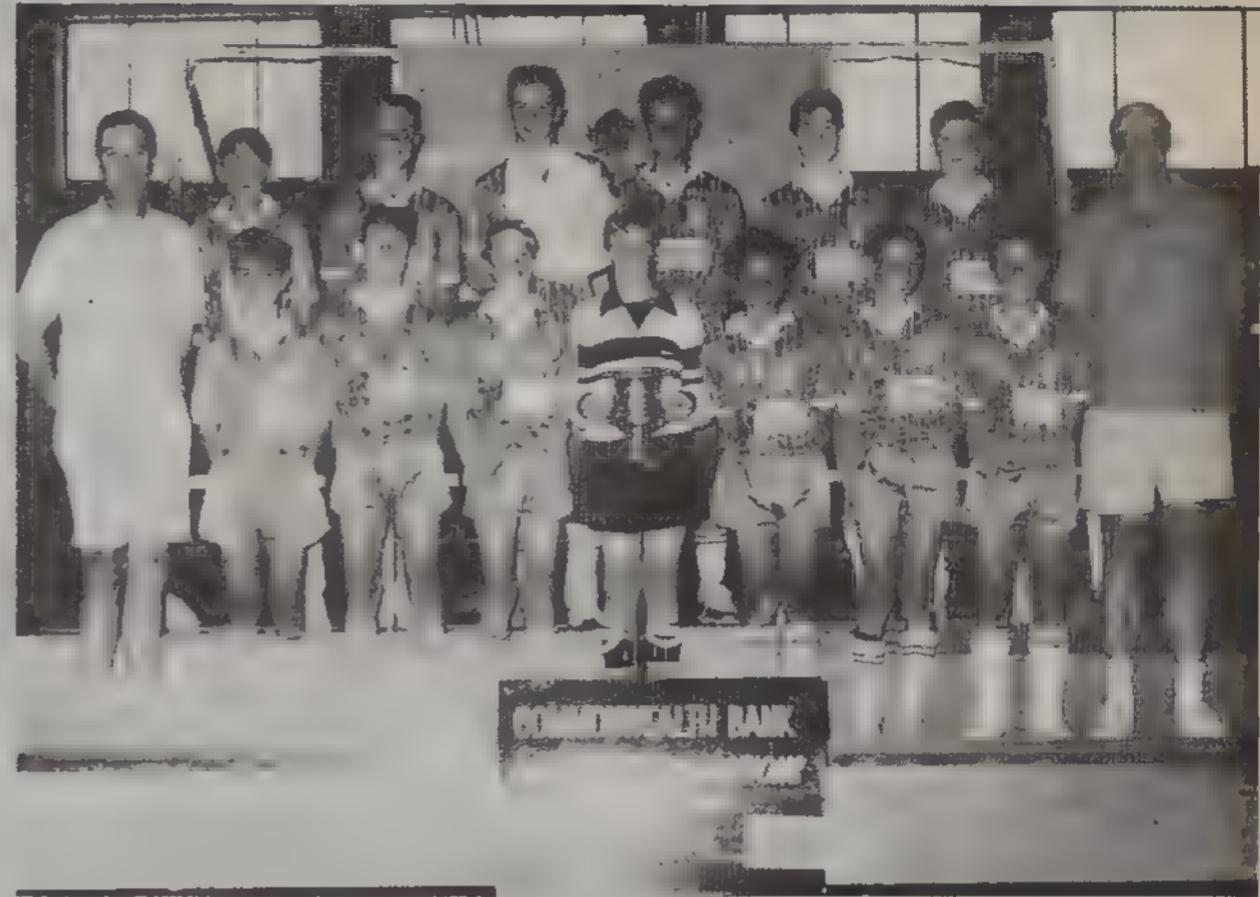


Under 15 Winners (Women's) Epping Eastwood (Gladesville Hornsby)

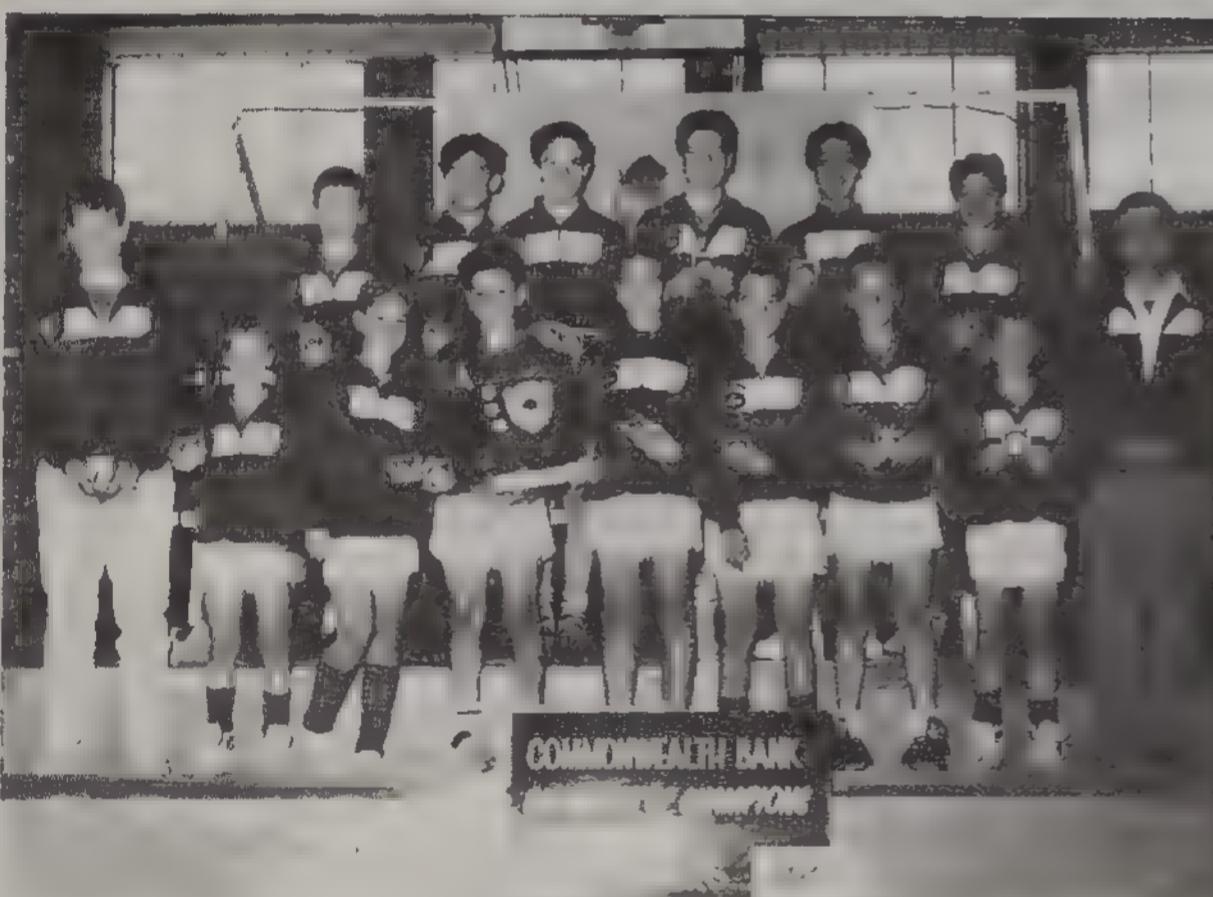
CHAMPIONS



Under 14 Winners Mt Pritchard (S Dist)



Under 13 Winners Castle Hill (Gladesville-Hornsby)



Under 12 Winners Marconi (S Dist)



Under 11 Winners Balgownie (Illawarra)



Under 10 Winners Marconi (S Dist)



Under 9 Winners Gunners United (Macarthur)



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



Three of Europe's top clubs after Agostino

THREE of Europe's most glamorous soccer clubs are showing keen interest in West Adelaide starlet Paul Agostino.

Giants AC Milan and Napoli were most impressed with the young Joey during the world championships this year in Italy.

They are keen to have him trial.

And Dutch super team PSV Eindhoven, managed by former England boss Bobby Robson, have lodged interest in the teenager with West.

Agostino, 16, is working to finish Year 11 studies at Findon High School, but looks sure to head for Europe next year with his father Nick for trials.

The athletic striker, with a keen eye for goal, was Australia's scoring hero in Italy.

He scored a glorious hat-trick in the Joeys' opening 4-3 success against Mexico and went on to be named in the MasterCard World All-Stars XI at the end of the tournament.

Australian soccer chiefs are working on special contracts to try to lure youngsters to stay in Australia, especially with the 1993 World Youth championships being staged here.

But even ASF chairman John Constantine admits the legal implications make it almost impossible to prevent such a talented kid as Agostino from moving to try to better himself.

Agostino has signed a new 'flexible' contract with West and would be free to make the move if he chose.

★★★

SA's glamour pre-season Ampol Cup series will kick-off in 1991 with a new format —



West Adelaide's Raymond Blair flies through the air in a recent game.

Photo JANUSZ KAMMA.

designed to make play attractive.

The 33rd Ampol Cup sports several new rules.

Following a meeting with Ampol's SA and NT manager, Mr Ted Wziontek, SA Soccer Federation general manager Tony Farrugia announced three points would be awarded for a win during the preliminary rounds.

winner awarded two points and the loser one.

The shoot-out, first introduced in the professional North American National Soccer League, involves the striker of the ball starting from the half way line with the ball and given seven seconds to run, shoot and beat the goalkeeper.

The keeper is allowed to move any time and position himself to advantage when the starting whistle is blown.

The rule changes will also be used in the semi-finals and the final if teams remain level after extra-time.

The rule about passing back to the goal-

keeper, which is to be introduced for the 1994 World Cup finals in the USA, will be enforced during the Ampol series.

In simple terms, a player can pass back to his goalkeeper any time, but if the ball is immediately sent back to him, the player is not permitted to tap it back to the custodian until the ball has been touched by another player.

The rule has been introduced to avoid time wasting and, like the points system, to maintain non-stop action.

★★★

CROATIA has lodged an appeal with Australian Immigration au-

thorities to try to get star import midfielder Mladen Putanec to stay in SA.

Putanec, an outstanding player here since 1989, has had a request for permanent residency turned down by authorities.

Officials claimed Putanec did not have suitable credentials to meet immigration department criteria.

"We now have lodged papers to appeal over that decision," a spokesman for Putanec and the Croatia club said. "We believe it will take two to three months for that appeal to be reviewed by immigration authorities.

"If the original deci-

sion stands, he will have to go back to whatever situation he would find in Croatia."

The immediate action is a boost to SA. Putanec, one of the most skilled players in the State, would look likely to be available for the Fairmont Pacific challenge series against Adelaide City and West Adelaide and the interstate game later this month against Victoria in Mt Gambier.

★★★

ADELAIDE City's Zebras hit the road on Saturday for the NSL clash against Heidelberg in Melbourne.

The official City supporters club, through Coachlines of Australia,

lia, ran the bus east for \$53.

Fans left Hindmarsh Stadium at 10.30pm on Saturday and arrived about 11am to spend two hours at Melbourne Markets before being taken on to the game. They arrived home at 7am on Monday.

★★★

A well worked free-kick goal, finished by Mark Abraham, gave Azzurri a 1-0 victory over Salisbury in the historic last West End Premier Cup final at Hindmarsh.

But Salisbury, wearing a new strip in West End's red and black colours, could be forgiven for thinking there was divine intervention in its bid for silverware.

Blues goalkeeper Bruno Silvestri was in scintillating form. Woodwork, inspired Azzurri defence and questionable monitoring of the rules on occasions, saw Azzurri home.

Salisbury was not happy at the way it conceded the clincher but, despite the efforts of Tony Gasparrato, this never looked likely to be the Berries' day.

Dave Edwards gave John Nyskohus' Modbury a 2-0 win in the battle of the brothers against Bugsy's Beograd in the third-fourth play-off.

The West End series will not be repeated next year.

★★★

PORT Adelaide is seeking a new coach for next season.

Zoran Maricic led the club last season but will be in charge of Birralla Eagles next term.

Former Enfield coach Ralph De Pinto stood in as boss for the West End Premier Cup.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

South Australia



Foundation
S.A.

It's all happening up in the sunny state of Queensland at the moment

GUY HAND LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

AXED Brisbane United striker Stuart Stevenson will not be sold for less than the club outlaid for him, according to United secretary Lawrence Oudendyk.

Brisbane transfer-listed Stevenson, 29, last week for alleged breaches of discipline.

Oudendyk said the club would make Stevenson's transfer fee public once NSL authorities were notified.

But the United secretary said the fee would not be less than the \$7000 United paid Melbourne club Heidelberg for the volatile striker.

"We certainly won't be selling him for any less than we outlaid

for him," Oudendyk said.

Coach Miron Bleiberg dropped Stevenson the night before United's away game against Sydney Croatia for what he said were "disciplinary reasons".

Oudendyk said Stevenson was sacked for "serious breaches of contract" after playing only three matches for the club.

Stevenson, who was living in a flat leased for him by Brisbane United, has reportedly returned to Melbourne.

Oudendyk said there had been no expressions of interest in Stevenson from other clubs so far.

"It's early days yet," Oudendyk said.

"It really depends on



Stuart Stevenson

who's looking for a striker and who's got the money to pay for him.

"I would assume he'll now return to Melbourne to see if some NSL or State League club will take him on."

Bleiberg lured Stevenson to Queensland in August when he took over the reins of the new club.

The NSL journeyman has also had stints with Sydney Olympic, South Melbourne and

Preston after Heidelberg originally brought him out from Scotland.

Stevenson joined United determined to resurrect his NSL career.

After a promising start in his first match against West Adelaide, Stevenson was injured at training and missed United's win over Marconi.

He failed to get on the scoresheet in three outings for the club.

REAPPOINTED Queensland coach Juan Cutillas has unveiled grand plans for representative soccer in the Sunshine State next season.

As well as further expanding the senior representative program, Cutillas wants to establish an under-23 Maroons side.

"I've had informal talks with the Queensland Soccer Federation about it and they're agreeable 100 per cent," Cutillas said.

"It would give us a base for the senior team and for Brisbane United as well.

"It also gives other players a chance to play for Queensland.

"Possibly we could look at a tour of South-East Asia at the end of the season for the under-23s."

Cutillas, who coaches second division side Willowburn, who are based in Toowoomba, said there would be no shortage of players to sustain an under-23 Queensland team.

"I've seen a lot of good young players not just in the NSL, but in the lower divisions as well," Cutillas said.

"At my club there are many good young players and at other clubs in

the second division also.

"There are good young players at Inala City, at St Albans and The Gap and even in the third division at Mitchelton."

Cutillas said representative soccer in Queensland was taking a major step forward next season, with the strong results in two recent post-season matches proof of what could be accomplished.

"The good recent results with what so many people called a second-string team now shows we have a wide range of players to call from," Cutillas said.

"We'll definitely be playing against NSW and Victoria next year and ACT want to play us again.

"Our game in Canberra against them recently (the Maroons won 3-2) has established a very good relationship with them."

"The States now realise the importance of interstate competition to help keep the code alive.

"It's important to play against top opposition, especially after the NSL season has finished."

Cutillas said Queensland's expanded representative program this year had been a boon to the State's players and

improved the code's position.

"Everything has improved — the promotion, publicity, performance, coaching and selection of players," Cutillas said.

"It's been a very busy year, but a very profitable year for the game."

Queensland played eight games in 1991 — the most recent a 1-0 victory over the New Zealand Olympic team two weeks ago.

On the personal front, Cutillas said he would stay for at least another season with Willowburn.

"The club have said they want to go into the XXXX League next year and my presence should help attract good players to the club," he said.

Cutillas' Toowoomba experience has also brought home to him the need for soccer to expand into regional areas of Queensland.

"Maybe we could play some of the interstate games in bigger provincial centres."

"Bringing the code to the country areas like Townsville and Bundaberg is a good incentive to players in those areas."

"There is some really good undiscovered talent in those sorts of places."

Croatia is to remain!

BOTTOM club Canberra Croatia will definitely be retained in the ACT First Division next season.

The decision was made at a meeting of the division's membership. On the agenda was next year's competition in relation to the provisions of the Neame report into ACT soccer.

The author of the report, Barry Neame, said the retention of Croatia was sensible both in relation to the circumstances "and to the future of soccer in the ACT."

Even so, the competition is still one team short, with Second Division champion Defence Academy having declined promotion and Canberra University seeking to drop two divisions to the Third.

Neame said there were several possibilities. "We will be holding discussions with clubs who may consider themselves worthy of a First Division place," he said.

"Obviously this is an important step, as under the plan membership of the First Division will eventually be restricted to major clubs with considerable requirements and responsibilities."

If no applicant fulfilled these requirements, a seven-team competition

From our man in Canberra Graham Cooke

ministrators striving to Australianise the sport, but the fact remains the army of soccer fans who recent origins are from outside Australia enjoy and support the concept.

The ACT's Second Ethnic World Cup is underway at Hawker Oval with eight teams. The rules on ethnic origins are not strictly enforced — for example, it will be interesting to see who turns out for "Cameroun" — but there is no denying that matches like Italy v Australia and Croatia v Latin America have extra flavour both for participants and spectators.

Organiser Roger Arquero says a number of ACT companies, including Project Coordination, Monaro Mix, Caltex Kaleen and Summerland Travel have got behind the competition, which will be spread over four days and two weekends.

"We have been able to offer some reasonable prizemoney, with \$2000 for the winner, \$500 for the runner-up and \$300 for the third-placed team," he said.

"In addition, four veterans teams will play for a trophy."

The Latin America entry includes three players from Sydney: Leonel Alarcosa, William Piris and Mauricio



Canberra Metro's Zoran Pratezine (left)

Reyes, as well as Joe Arquero, Lino Fiorese, Alex Castro and Gary Van Der Plaat.

Scotland, holder of the trophy, has players of the quality of Peter Thompson, Jimmy Baxter and Alan Rankine, while Bernie Lustica is in charge of the Australian team, which contains Anthony Giannasca and Andrew Young.

Each team plays four matches with three

points for a win and one for a draw. The winner will be the team with the most points. There will be no play-offs.

CANBERRA Metro president Frank Crnkovic is confident the club will be retaining its NSW League membership next season.

All existing First Division members have to apply to join the reorganised "Super League"

and Crnkovic said the final decision could come next week.

"From my understanding of what is going on, some clubs are in trouble with things like the standard of their grounds, but not us," he said.

Crnkovic was re-elected president of the Croatia Deakin Club, the Metros' owner, with Mijo Glavinc vice president, Dennis Milin secretary and Anton Tomas treasurer. Membership of the important Soccer Committee will be decided shortly.

Crnkovic said the most immediate task was the appointment of a new coach. "We are well aware that Christmas is looming".

"Despite the setbacks of last season, our long-term aim remains membership of the national league, and everything we do is designed for that goal," he said.

THE GATORS under-13 indoor soccer side had success at the NSW Country Championship, beating Dougmal Juniors 4-1 in the final. Dion Cannell was the team's top scorer with 10 goals.

The Under-10 Pumas lost its final 4-1 to the Boomers while the Cosmos (formerly the Green Machine) was beaten in the preliminary section of the under 15s.

ITALO Aussies retained the ACT Veterans Shield tournament played at Kambah. The final, against Hills Rockets of Sydney, finished at 0-0 with Italo taking the shield 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out.

Now organiser Jock Coulter is considering the possibility of interstate challenges at veterans level. Anyone interested in playing for the ACT (minimum age 35) should get in touch with him on 256 3200.

BAZ GIAMPAOLO was recognised as the ACT First Division's leading scorer at the recent federation presentation night, but when the lower divisions are taken into account it would be hard to beat Colin Tully's 71 in Weston Creek's march to the Fifth Division title.

ANOTHER outlet to soccer in Canberra has opened with the decision by Radio 2SSSF to broadcast a live Coca-Cola National League game on Sundays.

The coverage, through Sydney's 2KY, will begin at 6pm with a program giving general news on Australian soccer and continues with the live game until 9pm. Commentators and presenters involved are John Kosmina, Mike Hill and Colin Turner.

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY



All the way to the USA in 1994

Dr Henry A. Kissinger, honorary chairman of World Cup USA 1994, with the logo representing the XV FIFA World Cup soccer championships which will be held in the United States in 1994.



World Cup finalists:

IN less than a month (December 8) the USA will name its 12 host cities for the 1994 World Cup.

An assessment of the 19 leading candidates is provided below.

Unlike many, I believe the World Cup in the US of A will be an enormous success in every respect.

At the FIFA announcement in New York on December 8, the draw for the various qualifying rounds will also be made — and you can catch it live on Sunday, December 9 on SBS-TV!

And prospects for an indoor venue for the 1994 World Cup soccer tournament received a boost last week as a site selection team came away impressed after a tour of the indoor Pontiac Silverdome. Guido Tognoni, lead-

er of the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) site selection team, praised the Silverdome as a "five-star facility".

FIFA, whose other inspection team was favourably impressed after a recent visit to the Superdome in New Orleans, is leaving the door open to the possibility of having match in the 1994 World Cup played indoors.

Both domed stadiums have artificial playing surfaces, but studies financed by the prospective hosts indicate that grass can be grown indoors to accommodate the tournament.

Roger Faulkner, chairman of the Michigan bid committee, was optimistic. "We believe there will be indoor soccer in the 1994 World Cup and it will be here in Michigan," he said.

1 Atlanta (Bobby Dodd Stadium, 60,000): Although Atlanta is preparing for the 1996 Olympics, it is interested in maintaining its international profile and bid for first-round matches. Having the support of Coca-Cola doesn't hurt.

2 Boston/Foxboro, Mass. (Foxboro Stadium, 67,000): A crowd of 51,273 for national team game against Ireland in June opened some eyes. The Patriots spent \$1.3 million in 1990 to convert from artificial turf to grass.

3 Chicago (Soldier Field, 67,000): Needed only four months to raise \$5 million in private funds to finance bid. Drew 41,541 for national team game against AC Milan.

4 Columbus, Ohio (Ohio Stadium, 90,000): A long shot. Columbus has a metropolitan area of 1.4 million, but aren't they all Buckeye fans? Ohio State installed natural grass before the 1990 season, a fortuitous decision.

5 Dallas (Cotton Bowl, 67,000): Stadium in need of massive renovation, and city approved \$5 million in stadium upgrades. However, a \$30 million stadium bond issue has yet to go to the voters. Dallas has the clout of American Airlines and appeal of a central location.

6 Denver (Mile High Stadium, 76,123): If now baseball stadium isn't ready for 1994, there could be conflicts with a new team. Denver has worked hard in its efforts, and 36,772 turned out for a national team game against Uruguay in May.

7 Detroit/Pontiac (Silverdome, 76,000): This could be a reach, and its best chance could be as a paired venue

with Chicago. Ann Arbor may have been a better choice, but University of Michigan was not interested.

8 Kansas City (Arrowhead Stadium, 72,000): FIFA loves Arrowhead Stadium and is impressed with the \$1 million temporary grass field built on scaffolding above the artificial turf. The 25,000 ticket pledges also made an impression.

9 Los Angeles/Pasadena (Coliseum, 92,518; Rose Bowl 102,083): The three largest soccer crowds in US history were in Pasadena for the 1984 Olympics. Coliseum averaged 39,226 for three Gold Cup matches last July.

10 Miami (Joe Robbie Stadium, Orange Bowl 75,000): Baseball expansion could limit stadium available, but the Marlins will be sent on an extended road trip.

11 New Haven, Conn (Yale Bowl, 70,000): Another popular stadium for Olympic competition, and 33,547 attended national team game against Juventus in June. State legislature will vote in January on a \$10 million bond package to renovate 77-year-old facility.

12 New Jersey (Giants Stadium, 76,000): A late entry into the derby, but how can FIFA ignore the New York market? The scaffolding of a field at Arrowhead Stadium would have to be duplicated in Giants Stadium.

13 New Orleans (Superdome, 73,000): If grass can be grown indoors, and dates can be secured, World Cup USA would love to show off a domed

stadium to the rest of the world. If one domed stadium is chosen, expect it to be the Superdome.

14 Orlando, Fla. (Citrus Bowl, 74,000): City has Walt Disney World to offer visitors from abroad and plenty of hotel space. But it's doubtful FIFA will choose three Florida cities, and Tampa and Miami appear to be favourites.

15 Philadelphia (Veterans Stadium, 60,000): The Phillies are in the way and a grass field would have to be installed, but bid committee has guaranteed sellouts. The second-largest crowd to see the national team — 44,261 — attended a game in August.

16 San Francisco/Palo Alto (Candlestick Park, 85,000; Stanford Stadium, 86,000): Stanford handled large crowds for 1984 Olympics and drew 81,000 for a US-Soviet Union game in 1990.

17 Seattle (Husky Stadium, 65,000): Another artificial turf to replace. Location could pose another problem, now that Portland, Ore., has been eliminated. Seattle appears to be a backup if there are problems in San Francisco or Denver.

18 Tampa, Fla. (Tampa Stadium, 72,000): Rich soccer tradition and locals always have strongly supported professional team, the Rowdies. An excellent geographical match with Miami.

19 Washington, D.C. (RFK Stadium, 61,872; or proposed new facility 78,000): It's hard to imagine the nation's capital being left out.

* denotes bid for final.

Oh, what a tangled web soccer has landed in . . .

ONE of the most disastrous consequences resulting from the ABC's shameful decision to disown local soccer on television appears certain to be the serious curtailment of the Socceroos' international program because of the heavy financial burden placed on the ASF.

While one can easily sympathise with the unenviable position the ASF has been forced into, it's nevertheless difficult to comprehend just why the various Socceroo outfits — which are unquestionably the most marketable commodities the code has to offer, must bear the brunt of any necessary restraints.

Surely, if it comes down to a question of priorities, the Socceroos should be the last to suffer from any cutbacks. The best hope for any possible turnaround in the ASF's economic fortunes must lie with maximum exposure of our high profile national teams.

Think back over the years, success in international tournaments were the ONLY times that our stadiums were packed, front page recognition given by our mass circulation newspapers and invaluable prime time allotted on commercial radio and television.

Instead of limiting these opportunities, soccer should be moving heaven and earth in its attempts to find ways of increasing them.

If our economic climate does not allow it, if money is simply not there — then it must somehow be found by any means possible.

Former ASF president Ian Brusasco caused a furore within the game a couple of years back when he proposed, and successfully got through, an annual



The Socceroos are suffering and soccer, as a whole is hurting . . .

one dollar levy on all junior players in order to help balance the game's finances. Despite all the uproar that proposal created at the time, it's now pretty well accepted by the original opponents of the scheme.

Unfortunately, the code finds itself in financial strife yet again thanks to the spurious action of ABC authorities. Rather than wring our hands in despair and force our only hope of salvation into hibernation, however, another way must be found

to extract the game out of its present difficulties.

As the juniors came to the code's rescue through the efforts of Brusasco a couple of years ago, necessity might now require the many thousands of fans to do likewise. Attendances at NSL matches last season topped the 700-mark. A million are expected to pass through the turnstiles this year.

Their \$8 at the gate has not increased for the past couple of seasons and while some

may complain that soccer is already an expensive form of entertainment, it really is more than reasonable when compared to basketball, a night at the movies and so on.

Any suggestions of charging a higher entrance fee to NSL matches can obviously be expected to be met with howls of protests from fans and that can possibly be understandable in these tough economic times but, surely, difficult problems can never be overcome with easy solutions.

Remember, it's our international future that could be at stake, maybe even the future of the game itself in this country, that we're talking about.

What I'm proposing is that consideration be given to allow NSL clubs to start charging \$10 at the gate with 1% of all takings going into a fund specifically set up for financing Socceroo commitments. Clubs themselves can also benefit by retaining the other dollar to help ease their own tight budgets.

Price increases — for any goods and services, always run a risk that demand might drop off in the short term. That, however, is a risk which simply has to be taken in the current financially precarious situation. Hopefully, just like the \$1 levy imposed on juniors a while back, an increase in admission charges at NSL matches will also be accepted and forgotten about within a few short months.

Had this arrangement been in force last season, our Socceroos

would have benefited to the tune of \$700,000 and could feasibly be looking at another million by the end of this financial year. A handsome amount, indeed, which will go a long way towards the continuation of our international development.

The Socceroos, at all four levels, are the biggest hope our code has got of propelling itself into the very top level of Australian sport. They are the future of the game. Their success will eventually have a positive effect on all the clubs within the NSL and any subsequent benefits will undoubtedly be shared by the humble fans who play their part in making it all happen.

★★★

Watching the first round NSL cup tie at the Marconi Stadium last week, I couldn't help but wonder what the hell I was doing there. The small number of fans made it quite clear that there's very little interest in the competition, competing clubs have long regarded it as nothing more than a nuisance, while the NSL, through its total lack of promotion for its own cup, has clearly shown that they would rather the whole expensive exercise be done away with. A cup competition run properly should be one of the glamour events of the soccer calendar, but unless an effort is made to turn it into a meaningful one by obtaining some decent sponsorship and promote it in a way that befits a major tournament, we might as well forget the whole thing and save everyone the embarrassing pretence of going through the motions.

Soccer fans are no fools. What they clearly want is a proper cup competition, not a pale imitation which is fast turning into a Claytons Cup.

Little Tim Bredbury



is a very big capture

TIM Bredbury is a good 'un!

Those were my thoughts as I watched him for the first time for Sydney Olympic against Melbourne Croatia.

I wasn't at the game live at St George Stadium, but was watching it on SBS television.

But even on television the assets of Bredbury as a striker were plain to see.

He is short, but that is an asset as a striker.

Many central defenders in Australia are quite tall, which makes them somewhat immobile, compared to the nippy striker.

Bredbury is short, nimble, quick and agile.

These are excellent physical qualities for someone playing in soccer's most difficult position.

Most of the game's great strikers have possessed those physical qualities.

Think of Pelé, Puskas, Papin, Careca, Maradona, Muller, all of those fitted that physical mode.

Coaches today often chose defenders with the same degree of mobility as people like Bredbury.

Which is why the striking role is even more difficult in the modern game — especially in Italy, where fast, mobile, defenders are hand-picked to man-to-man mark the world's best strikers.

Melbourne Croatia's captain George Hannah, when asked by SBS expert, John Warren, on television whether they were taking special measures to handle Bredbury, said no!

"We do not take special precautions against teams, we expect them to worry about us," he said.

As league leaders, that sounded reasonable and practical.

But on the night, with Olympic playing better than Croatia, they were able to free Bredbury quite a few times.

He almost scored a couple of times, then late in the game, won it for Olympic with an ab-



Bredbury (left) being congratulated by Peter Katholos and Zlatko Nastevski after one of his goals.

solutely scintillating goal.

It was a true striker's goal.

Following a collision of bodies in the left side of the Croatia box, Bredbury was given a sharp chance and he shot quick and accurately to 'keeper Miller's near post.

Miller beat the ball away but straight back to Bredbury.

Quickly, a Croatia player closed Bredbury down, but not quick enough.

The nimble striker with a neat first touch brought the ball immediately under control, ready to fire in a right-foot shot.

The angle at the near post was quite tight and Miller had covered it well with a well balanced, compact basic

goalkeeping position, with Bredbury some 10-12 metres out.

Most people in the stadium, including one suspect, the Croatia goalkeeper and his defenders, expected the shot to be cleared.

From my loungeroom position I didn't fancy Tim's chances and was somewhat relaxed in my chair, totally unaware, even as a former striker, not at all sensing what was going to happen, remembering that this all happened in the space of three to four seconds.

Then suddenly the ball ripped like a shell high into the net.

Though waiting and balanced with every nerve straining to bring off a reflex save, if needed, Miller's hands never had time to even move from their basic

position at chest height.

That right foot exploded like a gun, fast, accurate and with amazing power.

The ball ripped the netting violently backwards, then a spontaneous, immediate explosion of applause shot through the night, enhancing the feeling that a gun had exploded a shell into the goal.

The applause continued.

The Greek crowd, eager as always for the dramatic, are ever ready to be stirred by wordly events that are larger than life.

They absorbed it all, their voices rhetoric and histrionics buzzing in the night air.

Such a goal deserved to win a game and so it proved.

So, Tim Bredbury has power in his shoo-

ting.

He also roams around up front, therefore is not easy to mark, crosses well and shoots well with both feet.

Maradona and Puskas were exceptions to the rule of most top strikers who usually shoot well with both feet.

It does seem that Sydney Olympic and Australian football has come across a pearl from out of that frantic, frenetic, and crunched up metropolis, Hong Kong.

Apart from his more noticeable virtues, Tim showed even over the television airways that he also possesses the striker's 'sense' for goal chances.

Zlako Nastevski, like Kevin Hagan at Wollongong Wolves, has so far found it hard to find the goalscoring touch again.

Both are around 33, exceptionally skilful still, but finding it difficult to call up the reflexes to match the sharpness of younger defenders.

The idea, probably, was for both lads to play just part of a game and while fresh, do the damage, then come off.

Cameroon in the World Cup used Roger Milla that way, though he would come on late in a game, while Nastevski and Hagan have started games, then been replaced.

Milla, amazingly, is still doing well as a striker at age 39, so maybe Olympic and Wolves may try the Milla formula.

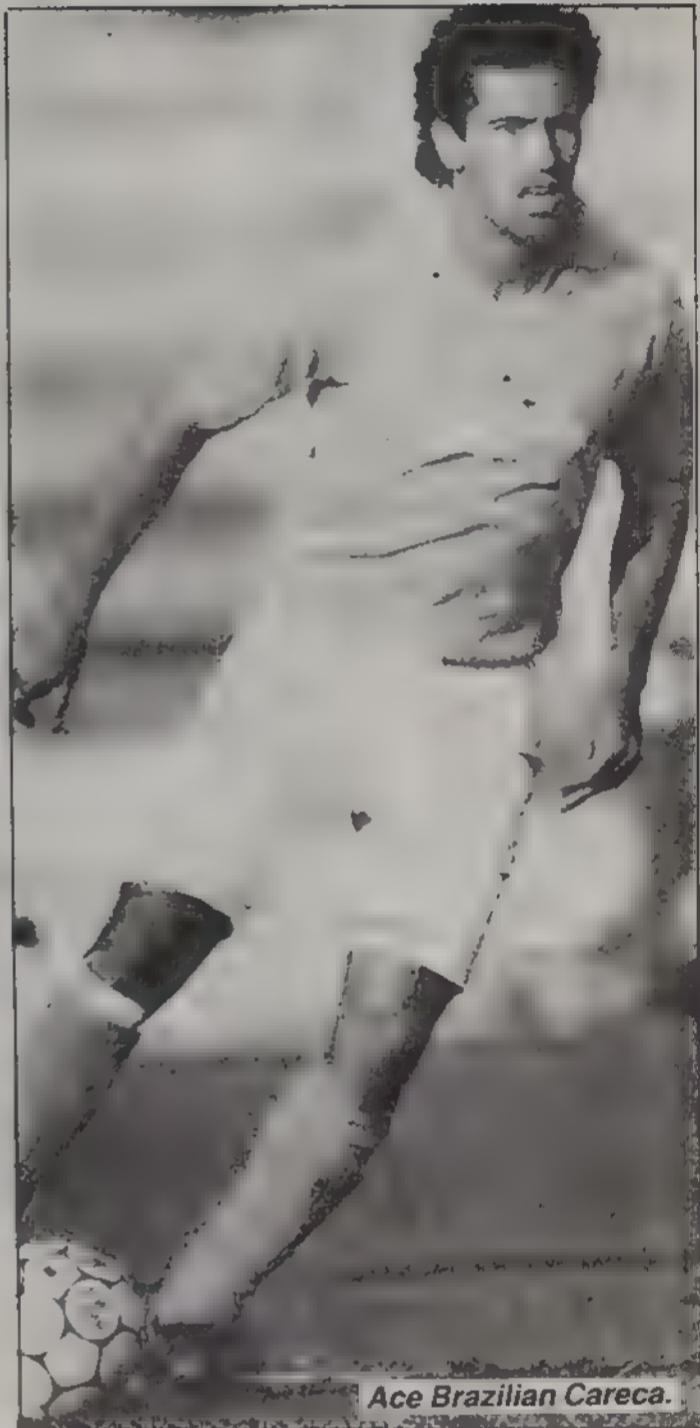
Meanwhile, at 28, Tim Bredbury is a jewel in our midst, such good value to his team mates, club and spectators alike.

Given freedom from injury, Tim should play like this for 2-4 more years.

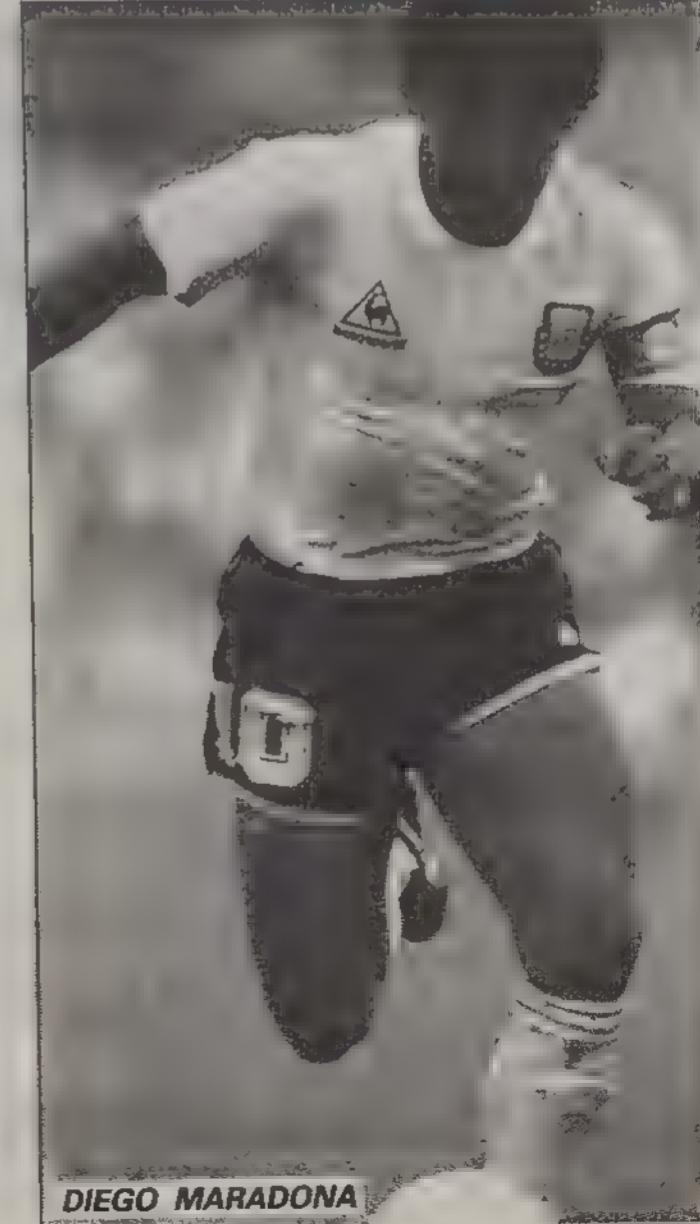
Such a short time.

As soccer players, we need to use what we have. We need to play to our potential earlier, realise how precious our talent is, and not waste it.

The gifts of youthfulness should not be wasted on the young, especially in football.



Ace Brazilian Careca.



DIEGO MARADONA

AROUND THE NATION

The 'Seal Appeal' gets underway

BY ROBERT WHEATLEY

When David Seal, Australian Youth Representative and current Olyroo, proudly declares himself "a Penrith boy born and bred" he does so with the support of his local community and the knowledge that he is now in the process of turning that pride into bricks and mortar.

The Seal Appeal is quite simply a registered charity, the proceeds of which will contribute towards the purchase of specialist equipment for Nepean District Hospital. The equipment will assist the Neo-Natal unit to allow premature babies to receive special care at the hospital when they are brought in via the child care flight service from all over the state.

The major prize of the Appeal is an autographed ball from the under-19 Australian Youth Squad who performed so splendidly in Portugal earlier this year. It is presented magnificently in a wooden case and with tickets selling for \$1 and with such a worthwhile cause attached to the project, sales are progressing well.

The seed for this superb gesture was sown earlier this year when Penrith Council held a civic reception to congratulate Seal on his success with the Young Socceroos who reached the World Youth Championship semi-finals. On this occasion Seal took the opportunity to acknowledge the people who have helped him over the years.

First and foremost he mentioned his family — parents Roger and Pam, brother Michael and sister Jodie — and there was general thanks to everyone who has given him assist-



Interested soccer fans (including Marconi star Ian Gray — far right) contribute towards the appeal.

ance and advice as his soccer career took shape.

whom he played junior soccer), Panthers and "the people of Penrith whose support launched an Australian Representative career." Selection in the Olympic Squad for the completion of the Oceanic Section of qualification is another stepping stone for Seal.

The driving force behind the entire project is father Roger Seal.

His enthusiasm for the cause is such that he anticipates raising an amount in the vicinity of \$50,000. This public appeal means that Roger is continually looking for opportunities to set up his display of

priceless soccer memorabilia and to allow soccer enthusiasts and the general public to assist his fundraising. He is planning for the major prize to be drawn in early 1992.

The recent finals of the NSWASF-run Champion of Cham-

pions were an excellent opportunity for Roger to spread the message of the Seal Appeal and the generosity of the on-lookers was most gratifying. Anyone wishing to make a donation or find out more about the scheme can contact Roger on (047) 21-8417.

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

PRESENTS

" THE WINNING FORMULA "

Authorized by The Football Association, this is a collection of 5 videos that make up the definitive coaching programme for the modern game.



VOLUME 1: DIRECT PLAY

This video looks at the skills involved in structuring goal scoring situations.

VOLUME 2: SCORING

This video looks at the various scoring techniques. Crosses, Heading, Shooting, Prime Target Areas, Prime Scoring Areas and the Movement of Attackers to be the First to the Ball.

VOLUME 3: WINNING THE ADVANTAGE

This video deals with the importance of winning the advantage- as a team and an individual.

VOLUME 4: DEFENDING TO WIN

This video looks at defending and the importance it has if a team is to triumph.



VOLUME 5: GOAL KEEPING

This video studies the Goal Keeper as an individual who relies heavily on his team for support, just as they depend on him for his skills in the Goal.

Each video is a unique combination of live action and computer graphics. The average running time is 50 minutes.



ORDER NOW FROM AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

Cat. No.	Title	Quantity
82339	VOLUME 1: DIRECT PLAY	
82340	VOLUME 2: SCORING	
82341	VOLUME 3: WINNING THE ADVANTAGE	
82342	VOLUME 4: DEFENDING TO WIN	
82343	VOLUME 5: GOAL KEEPING	

SEND TO: AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
P.O. BOX 406
BROADWAY N.S.W. 2007

NAME (Please Print).....

BILLING ADDRESS.....

Postcode.....

TELEPHONE CONTACT NO. (For Delivery).....

Date:.....

Cardmembers Signature

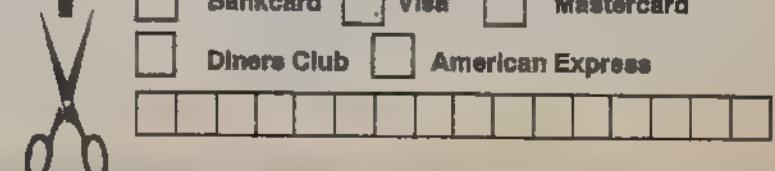
Expiry Date On Card

Each Video costs \$24.99. Please add postage & handling charge of \$3.00 per order. Allow 21 days for delivery. Total Number Of Videos Ordered.....

I enclose my cheque/ money order for \$.....

(Made Payable to: Festival Video P.O. Box 16, Pymont, 2009 N.S.W.)

Please charge my credit card
 Bankcard Visa Mastercard
 Diners Club American Express



Mayhem in Rio clash

THREE players and a coach were sent off and three goals came from penalties as Vasco da Gama drew 3-3 with Botafogo in a dramatic Rio de Janeiro championship clash last week.

Vasco coach Antonio Lopes was the first to be shown the red card in the 17th minute for standing on the touchline and shouting instructions to his players.

He was followed in the second half by Botafogo defender Valber, sent off for dissent, and William of Vasco and Dias of Botafogo, who were ordered off for fighting.

The goal rush began in the fifth minute when Valdeir gave Botafogo the lead.

Bebeto equalised in the 23rd minute from a controversial penalty but Botafogo regained the lead with another penalty, converted by Chicao, five minutes later.

In the second half another Bebeto penalty and a Torres header appeared to have won the



game for Vasco.

But Chicao provided the final twist when he equalised for Botafogo four minutes from the end with his eighth goal in three games.

Botafogo lead the second phase of the Rio championship on goal difference from Flamingo, who beat America/Tres Rios 2-0.

The winners meet Fluminense, who won the first phase, in the final.

Portuguesa, Guarani and Santo Andre qualified for the second phase of the Sao Paulo championship, joining Corinthians, Palmeiras, Botafogo/Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo and Internacional who had already guaranteed their places.

Portuguesa qualified with an injury-time goal by Vladimir that gave them a 1-0 win over Palmeiras.

★★★

The Mexican FA's decision to recruit Cesar Menotti as national coach has run into trouble.

Menotti, who coached Argentina to victory in the 1978 World Cup, has been given a three-year contract worth \$3.3 million, plus a house and a car.

But now the FA finds they cannot even make the first payment of \$900,000.

There have been criticisms from all sides that the FA cannot afford this kind of money, and that a Mexican should have been given the job... especially as Menotti has not yet presented a plan to prepare the national team for the next World Cup.

But the FA back Menotti to the hilt.

When America coach Carlos Miloc criticised Menotti he was suspended for two months.

(which means he cannot enter the field with his team during that time).

Perhaps it is too early to blame Menotti, who has only just taken over, but Mexico may not even make the final round of the CONCACAF zone's Olympic qualifying tournament.

Virtually the same team who unexpectedly lost the final of the Pan American Games tournament to the United States could only draw with Surinam and Honduras before losing 1-0 to the latter at home — the first time a team from that country had won a match on Mexican soil.

Mexico may yet qualify for the semi-finals by beating Surinam by a wide margin to gain the best second-place record in the three third-round groups, but it would need Surinam to beat Honduras, which is unlikely, to leave them first.

Canada and the US have won the other two groups and go into the semi-finals.

★★★

America moves into top gear!



Diego Osorio (Colombia).

IN Colombia champions America moved to the top of the so-called reclassification tournament from which the top eight — currently separated by only four points — qualify for the final round.

Miguel Company, the Peruvian coach who was in charge of his country's team in the South American Championship and recently

took over ailing Deportivo Cali, said he will change his club's style to play good soccer, but his first objective was to qualify for the final ground.

Deportivo were three points adrift of eighth place. They have made only one major signing, Percy Olivares from Sporting Cristal of Peru, on loan for the rest of the season.

Nacional of Medellin also have been struggling to get into the top eight.

Player mishap

IN Peru two players and officials of the Union Minas club, playing in the centre zone of the centralised championship, were injured and a member on the coaching staff was killed when the team's bus was shot at as the squad returned from an away match.

Highway robbers or terrorists were thought to be responsible.

The central zone championship, which qualifies the winner for the final round, were suspended.

Sporting Cristal and last year's winners, Sport Boys, tied for top place in the final round of the regional championship, the first of Peru's two tournaments, and Sporting Cristal with the play-off 1-0 to clinch a place in next year's Copa Libertadores.

In the decentralised championship, Universitario and Defensor Lima shared the lead after five rounds.

An Assyrian triumph over Argies in final of this year's Ethnic Cup

The Ethnic World Cup final was an Assyrian triumph.

The Assyrians, playing tactically and technically a brilliant match, defeated Argentina 4-2 and won the prestigious multicultural championship for the first time in the history of the tournament.

Once again, the solid Assyrian defence and the powerful striking force of Norman Tome and Nelio Borges paved the way for a well-deserved victory.

It truly was the victory of real champions and the triumph of the most consistent team, led by captain courageous Robin Younan.

A GREAT FINAL

In front of a well behaved capacity crowd, Assyrians and Argentines produced one of the best matches of the competition.

Assyria played a counter-attacking game, closing all the gaps at the back, and exploiting the speed and skills of Tome and Borges up front.

The South Americans were outplayed by



ETHNIC CUP WINNERS ASSYRIA

their well organised and highly spirited opponents.

To the surprise of everyone, Assyria went ahead 1-0 after only three minutes, when midfielder David Grimaldi took a clearance from the Argentine defence and, with a perfect volley from the edge of the box, opened the account.

The Assyrians created havoc with counter-attacks and had clear chances to score.

But they had to wait until the 30th minute to put the ball into the net for the second time.

Spirovski swerved a corner, and after several rebounds, Koropovski, from 15 metres with a header, beat a lunge from sweeper Glen Sterrey to put Assyria 2-0 up.

To the astonishment of many, Assyria scored again in the

34th, Borges beating the Argentine defenders but his shot was deflected to the right by goalkeeper Derek Jenkins and Tome, who followed the play, crossed the ball to the centre of the box where Borges, unmarked, netted.

In the 44th, Batten took advantage of a rare Assyrian mistake and, after a good individual effort, beat two defenders to score with a powerful crossed shot.

The second 45 minutes followed almost the same pattern, with Assyria defending and counter-attacking and

Argentina unable to convert their territorial advantage.

But the Argentine efforts were rewarded in the 63rd minute.

John McKie took a corner from the right and Argentine defender Scott Ashton, with a header, beat goalkeeper Kevin Farrar to reduce the score to 3-2 in favour of Assyria.

However, a defensive blunder enabled Borges to net the fourth for Assyria with a low shot against the right post.

It was the end for Argentina. Borges' goal was a

psychological blow for the South Americans and although they kept the pressure until the end, they couldn't overcome the determined Assyrian defensive unit, brilliantly marshalled by Zaya Gabriel, and well supported by Younan, Kevin Gaffney, Ian Gillan and the competition's best keeper, Kevin Farrar.

Zaya Gabriel was man of the match, with excellent games from Younan, Spirovski, Tome and Borges for Assyria.

For Argentina, John McKie and Stephen Berry were best.

ASSYRIA: Kevin Farrar, Robin Younan, Ian Gillan, Zaya Gabriel, Kevin Gaffney, David Grimaldi, Norman Tome, Sasha Spirovski, George Koropovski (88th Samir Isa), Heath Goldstein (79th Robert Grubba), Nelio Borges.

ARGENTINA: Derek Jenkins, Pascual Battaglia, Glen Sterrey (85th Anibal Borello), Martin Driene, Scott Ashton, Martin Bourke, Stephen Berry, Stewart Porte, John McKie, Zlatko Markovski (60th Bob Ivanian), David Batten.

O/35s

Ireland won the O/35s competition by beating Colombia 3-1 in the final.

Ireland dominated throughout the 60 minutes and deserved victory.

Szrwejczyk, in the 27th and 54th minutes, and McGill, in the 60th, scored for Ireland, while Soto, in the 33rd, netted for Colombia.

Spain, against the run of play, beat Mexico 1-0 in extra-time with a goal from the competition's highest scorer, Agustin Villazon, in the 112th minute.

The Mexicans dominated but lacked power up front and the opportunism of Villazon made the final difference in the scoreline.

With this victory over Mexico, Spain finished third in the All-Age tournament.

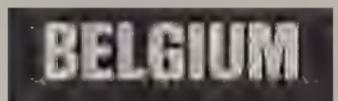
In the O/35s play-off for 3rd and 4th places, Greece beat Chile 4-2 after extra-time.



Latest overseas results & tables



At'one 2 St Patrick's Athletic 3, Bo'mains 2 Bray Wanderers 0, C City 2 Shelbourne 2, Du'alk 2 Galway 1, Sh'rock 0 Derry 1, Sl'go 2 Drogheda 3.



Ko'rijk 1 Cercle Bruges 0, Aa'st 2 Charleroi 0, C Bruges 2 Waregem 1, Lo'eren 1 Ekeren 2, Anderlecht 1 Mechelen 0, FC Liege 4 Beveren 0, Andwerp 1 Standard Liege 2, Gerk Ghent 1, Lierse 3 Molenbeek 1.

STANDINGS

Anderlecht	21
C Bruges	19
S Liege	19
Mechelen	18
Lierse	15
Ghent	14
C Bruges	14
Waregem	13
Artwerp	13
Ekeren	13
Be'eren	12
FC Liege	12

Kortrijk	11
L'eren	10
Gerk	8
Molenbeek	8
Aa'st	7
Charleroi	5



OFI 2 Olympiakos 2, AEK 2 Iraklis 0, Aris 3 Larissa 0, Doxa 0 Apollon 0, Ethnikos 2 Pierikos 2, Xanthi 1 Serres 0, Pan'ios 1 PAOK 1, Ath'akos 2 Korinthos 0.

STANDING: AEK 14, Olympiakos 13, Apollon 13, Panthinaikos 12, Ari 12, Doxa 11.



Lo'ones 2 Deportivo Coruna 1, Real Madrid 2 Albacete 1, Sporting G 0 Real Burges 0, Sevilla 2 Real Mallorca 0, At'letico Bilbao 0 Espanol 0, Real Vallapolid 2 Real Sociedad 2, Ca'iz 0 Real Zaragoza 0, Valencia 2 Atletico Madrid 0, Tenerife 1 Oviedo 0, Barcelona 2 Osasuna 0.

STANDING: R Madrid 17, A Madrid 14, R Burges 13, S Gijon 12, P



Robbie Slater



Montpellier 0 Marseille 0, Monaco 1 Nantes 0, Paris St Germain 0 Toulouse 0, Caen 1 Metz 0, Nar 1 Le Havre 3 Lilla 2 St Etienne 0.

STANDINGS

Marseille	25
Monaco	23
P. St Germain	22
Caen	21
Le Havre	19
Metz	18
Nantes	17

STANDINGS

Marseille	25
Monaco	23
P. St Germain	22
Caen	21
Le Havre	19
Metz	18
Nantes	17

PORTUGAL

Beira Mar 0 Porto 1, Bavia 1 Torreense 1, Vicence 1 Estoril 1, Gimaraes 2 Sporting 1, Salgueiros 1 Maritimo 0, Farense 3 Braga 1, Benfica 0 Pacos Ferreira 0.

HOLLAND

PSV Eindhoven 2 FC

EURO DRAW

This is the draw for the three European Cups:

Champions' Cup

Group A: Red Star Belgrade, Anderlecht, Panathinaikos, Sampdoria.

Group B: Sparta Prague, Dynamo Kiev, Benfica, Barcelona.

The above is the new two-group round-robin format for the Champions' Cup after the first two elimination rounds.

The two group winners, after the teams have met each other home and away (six games each), will play off in the final, set down for Wembley on May 20.

Two rounds will be play-

Groningen 2, V Veno 0

Ajax Amsterdam 1, V

Arnhem 4 FC Twente 1,

R Waalwijk 1 Willem II

Tilburg 2, F Rotterdam

0 FC Utrecht 0, F Volendam

0 Fortuna Sittard 1,

MSV Maastricht 0 De

Graafschap Doetinchem 0, Roda JC Karlsruhe 5 FC Den Haag 0.

STANDINGS: PSV 23,

Feyenoord 22, FC

Twente 19, V Arnhem

19, ajax Amsterdam 18,

Sparta 18, RKC 17,

Utrecht 16.

OLYMPICS

• In Fiji in Oceania qualifier:

FIJI 2 (Gary McGroon 29m 44m) PAPUA NEW GUINEA 0 at Naustri.

• In Yaounde in African qualifier:

CAMEROUN 2 (Wanjo, Mbarga) UGANDA 0. Attendance: 25,000.

• Osasuna (Spain) v Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands).

• Steaua Bucharest (Romania) v Genoa (Italy).

• Torino (Italy) v AEK Athens (Greece).

• Neuchatel Xamax (Switzerland) v Real Madrid (Spain).

Matches to be played on a home and away basis — first-leg November 27, second-leg December 11.

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter Finals

• Werder Bremen (Germany) v Galatasaray (Turkey).

• AS Roma (Italy) v Monaco (France).

• Atletico Madrid (Spain) v Club Brugge (Belgium).

• Feyenoord Rotterdam (Netherlands) v Tottenham (England).

Matches to be played on a home and away basis — March 4 and 18, 1992.

L·O·C·A·L KNOWLEDGE

Owned by ROBIN YOUNAN

Robin Younan is 25-years-old and owner of 'Local Knowledge', an exclusive men's Boutique in Liverpool. He is a well known and talented soccer player.

Robin's background in Australian Soccer is:

1978 Played for Nineveh Eagles U/12.

1979-1983 Played in U/14 and U/18 and has always coached by Terry Wales, who was a big influence in his career.

1985 Played for Sydney Croatia U/18 in the Youth League.

1988 Played for Granville Chile in Second Division State League.

1989-1991 Played for Southern Districts.

1991 Captain of the Assyrian squad, finalist of the Sydney Ethnic Soccer World Cup.

Robin also plays indoor soccer in the Australian National League for Commodore Amiga since 1989.

INTERNATIONAL HONOURS

1984 Member of the Australian indoor national U/16 team. Toured the United States of America.

1986-87 Member of the Australian indoor national U/21 team. Toured Japan.

AMBITIONS

To be successful in his business and play in the National Soccer League.



ROBIN YOUNAN WITH SBS PRESENTER ANDY PASCHALIDIS

Catering for all ages.
Brand names Plot, Tarocash, Isador's, Eagle Fashion, 4 Rucci, Swell Guys.

SITUATED OPP
WESTFIELD PLAZA

FOR THE BEST MEN'S CLOTHES IN TOWN, THE PLACE IS

'LOCAL KNOWLEDGE'

5/38 Elizabeth Street, LIVERPOOL. ☎ (02) 821 4630

DAY OF RECKONING IN EURO-92

BY LOU GAUTIER



Giuseppe Giannini of Italy (left) and the Soviet Union's Sergei Aleinikov when the teams drew 0-0 in Moscow — a result which killed Italy's hopes of a berth in the Euro-92 finals next year.

The day of reckoning for most countries seeking a berth in the 1992 European Championship finals looms on Wednesday (November 13).

No less than 10 qualifiers will be played on Super-Wednesday, most of them with crucial bearings on the final standings in the seven groups.

Group 1

Only Spain v Czechoslovakia in Group 1, where France have already clinched their berth for Sweden, is of academic interest.

Czechoslovakia are already assured of an honorary second place behind France who will go to Sweden with a 100% record after they beat Iceland next week — a first in Europeans qualifying history.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	7	7	0	0	17	5	14
Czechoslovakia	7	5	0	2	10	6	10
Spain	6	2	0	4	15	11	4
Iceland	7	2	0	5	6	7	4
Albania	7	1	0	6	1	20	2

Group 2

Scotland v San Marino and Romania v Switzerland will kick off at the same time in Group 2.

The Swiss insisted on this after learning that Scotland were due to kick off after the game in Bucharest had already been played, thus knowing the result and the number of goals required to qualify if the Swiss had drawn or lost.

As things now stand, the suspense will be maintained until the final second in both Bucharest and Glasgow.

A Swiss win would qualify them no matter what the Scots did, a draw in Bucharest would enable Scotland to finish first and qualify — if they beat the modest San Marino by a 10-goal margin.

Romania still have an outside chance of winning this group if they defeat Switzerland and also Bulgaria in Sofia on November 20 — but they have to win both games convincingly and hope that the Scots don't run up a huge score against tiny San Marino.

Odds for qualification: Switzerland 45%, Scotland 40%, Romania 15%.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	7	4	2	1	19	6	10
Scotland	7	3	3	1	10	7	9
Bulgaria	7	3	2	2	14	7	8
Romania	6	3	1	2	11	6	7
San Marino	7	0	0	7	1	29	0

Group 3

Run-away and unbeaten Group 3 leaders, the Soviet Union, just need a point against Cyprus, who have yet to earn a point in six games and have scored two measly goals and conceded 20, to clinch a berth in the finals.

They should be more than able to achieve this as their national team

remains a powerhouse in Europe despite the troubles besetting the troubled Soviet Union politically and economically.

The national football team is one of the rare features of life in the USSR still functioning smoothly.

Italy v Norway will have no bearing but will be fascinating as it will be

coach Arrigo Sacchi's debut in the Italian national team hot seat.

It will be interesting to see the new faces he brings in, and how they

perform as the crestfallen "Azzurri" attempt to regain face.

Odds: USSR 98%, Italy 2%.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	7	4	3	0	10	2	11
Norway	7	3	2	2	8	4	8
Hungary	8	2	4	2	10	9	8
Italy	6	2	3	1	9	4	7
Cyprus	6	0	0	6	2	20	0

Group 4

It's between Yugoslavia and Denmark in this tight Group 4, where Yugoslavia got off to a great start, winning their first four games before slipping at home against Denmark, which also lost at home to the Yugoslavs.

Yugoslavia, however, ran out of puff in the past few months, and must not lose in Austria to qualify.

Their goal-difference, however, is so much better than Denmark's that a draw will be enough to see them through.

The Yugoslav team that beat the Faroe Islands 2-0 in their most recent Euro-92 outing bore little resemblance to the side that spread terror in Europe some 12 months ago, though.

However, the Austrians have reached such depths of ineptitude that it's hard to see them bow out with even a draw.

Denmark can be relied on to account for the Northern Irish in Copenhagen despite the enforced absence of the Laudrup brothers, who still refuse to play under coach Richard Moller Nielsen.

So it will all come down to the wire on Wednesday, for as in Group 2, UEFA have decreed the games in Vienna and Copenhagen must kick off at the same time.

Odds: Yugoslavia 60%, Denmark 40%.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	7	6	0	1	22	4	12
Denmark	7	5	1	1	16	6	11
N.Ireland	7	2	3	2	10	9	7
Austria	7	1	1	5	6	12	3
Faroe Islands	8	1	1	6	3	26	3

Group 5

Wales have a chance to stretch their lead over world champions Germany to three points when they are home to punching bags Luxembourg, who have yet to chalk up a win in Group 5.

The Welsh have to rack up a big score, then keep their fingers crossed that Germany get beaten in Belgium the following week.

If the Germans beat Belgium, they have a final game against Luxembourg at home to make sure they jump ahead of Terry Yorath's Welshmen, who will have had an excellent Euro-92 qualifying campaign whether they make it to Sweden or not.

Odds: Germany 55%, Wales 45%.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	5	3	2	0	6	0	8
Germany	4	3	0	1	8	4	6
Belgium	5	2	1	2	7	5	5
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

Group 6

No matches this week in Group 6 where Holland have emerged as firm favourites with Greece a very outside chance.

Odds: Holland 85%, Greece 15%.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	7	5	1	1	15	2	11
Portugal	7	4	1	2	10	4	9
Greece	5	3	1	1	10	5	7
Finland	8	1	4	3	5	8	6
Malta	7	0	1	6	1	22	1

Group 7

It's anybody's guess as to the finishing order in this most open of Groups 7.

England, Poland and Ireland can all win without causing too much surprise though the odds must favour England, who just need a draw in Poland to win the group.

Poland will make it to Sweden if they beat England — by any score as they will then have a better goal-difference — and if the Irish don't win in Turkey.

A Polish win by the odd goal against England, coupled with an Irish victory, would see the three countries finish equal on points, but Ireland would win the group on better goal-difference.

England is least favoured by the draw, but past form gives them the best chance of winning Group 7 as a draw in Poland should be well within their grasp, Poland not having the best of football fighting spirits.

Odds: England 50%, Ireland 30%, Poland 20%.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	5	3	3	0	6	2	8
Rep. of Ireland	5	1	4	0	10	5	6
Poland	5	2	2	1	7	5	6
Turkey	5	0	0	5	0	11	0

LAUDRUP TO MOVE?

MICHAEL Laudrup is tipped to return to his native Denmark next year to join what is being tagged as the country's new super-club.

Laudrup, who can no longer command a starting line-up at Johan Cruyff's star-studded Barcelona where the top three foreign players are now Bulgarian striker Stoichkov and Dutchmen Ron Koemans and Richard Witschge, is believed headed for FC Copenhagen.



MICHAEL LAUDRUP

FC who, you may well ask?

FC Copenhagen is the name that will be given when KB Copenhagen and B 1903, another club from the Danish capital, merge early next year.

SIDELINED PAPIN — “I’M NO CHEAT!”

THE Spanish Football Federation was fined \$64,000 for crowd trouble during a European championship match against France last month.

A European Football Union (UEFA) spokeswoman said irate fans had thrown objects on the pitch after the match and the Spanish Federation could appeal against UEFA's fine.

The match in Seville on October 12 was won 2-1 by France, who qualified for the 1992 finals in Stockholm.

UEFA's Control and Disciplinary Committee also imposed a one-match suspension on French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who was booked for the second time during the match.

He will miss France's final Euro-92 qualifier against Iceland.

Papin, incidentally, struck by a beer bottle



JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN

before a league match last month, says he is disgusted by reports that he had feigned an injury.

"I am disgusted, this

is scandalous. I don't understand why people put my honesty in doubt," said the Marseille striker, who was taken to hospital after the incident at St Etienne.

St Etienne team doctor Guy Demonteil, who examined Papin, told the sports daily "L'Equipe" the player showed no visible sign of injury.

"Papin had nothing at all," said another doctor, Jean-Claude Bertraud, who heads the local unit of the Emergency Medical Service.

Marseille team doctors said after the incident that Papin had briefly lost consciousness and had suffered a slight head injury.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

★ FIFA president Joao Havelange has received France's highest decoration: the Legion of Honour. President Francois Mitterand decorated the Brazilian at the Elysée Palace in Paris a fortnight ago.

★ Viking Stavenger have won the Norwegian league, ahead of Rosenborg. Sven Loken of Rosenborg is the leading scorer. Stromsgodset have been relegated.

★ Foeke Booy, the FC Brugge striker and current top scorer in Belgium, is out of action for two months with torn knee ligaments.

★ America of Mexico beat Olimpia Asuncion 2-1 to win the Inter-American Champions' Cup. The Paraguayans could only draw their home leg 1-1. Olimpia coach Carlos Miloc is likely to face a long ban after allegedly hitting the referee after the game.

★ Another Soviet star is about to join a Bundesliga team — Pakhtakor's Igor Chkvrin, who has gone to Karlsruhe to link up with fellow-international Valeri Shmarov.

★ Faruk Hadzibegic, the 34-year-old captain of the Yugoslav national team, has become a fully-fledged coach after successfully passing the Yugoslav Federation's coaching exams in Belgrade.

★ San Francisco beat Albany in a play-off for the United States professional outdoor title. Albany won the first leg 3-1, San Francisco the second 2-0, and the decider was drawn 0-0 before San Francisco won the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

★ Dutch international midfielder Gerald Vanenburg says he wants to leave PSV. The classy playmaker is clamouring for a move to Italy where three clubs have offered him a fortune. Vanenburg says he is fed up with the dull, low-standard Dutch league. Those were his precise words...

★ Meho Kodro, the Velez Mostar (Yugoslavia) centre-forward, has signed a three-year contract with Real Sociedad, of Spain, worth \$550,000.

★ Lukas Todor, Sion's Chilean striker, has left Switzerland for Newell's Old Boys, the Argentine champions who are off to a horror start in this season's league.

★ It's not only in Australia where Coca-Cola are investing money in soccer. In Uruguay, the soft drink multi-national have donated \$1.3 million a year to the national team.

★ American national team midfielder Paul Caligiuri has joined his fourth European club in two years. After stints at Hamburg, Meppen and Hansa Rostock, he has now gone to Freiburg, in the German Second Division.

★ After a decade in Belgium, Mexico and Canada, former Polish great, Grzegorz Lato, has returned home — to coach ailing Stal Mielec.

★ Belgian First Division side Molenbeek have signed a new goalkeeper, a 22-year-old American, Ian Feuer. He made his debut against Kortrijk. The match was drawn 1-1. The goal Feuer conceded was scored by Aussie Aurelio Vidmar!

ESKILSSON BACK AFTER LEG BREAK



HANS ESKILSSON... fit again.

SWEDISH striker Hans Eskilsson is playing football again after a year's enforced absence.

Enforced not by broken leg, strained ligament or damaged cartilage, but by a contractual dispute with his erstwhile employers, Portugal's Sporting Lisbon.

After a special ruling by FIFA Eskilsson, 25, is now kicking a ball in earnest again — and back in Portugal, with Boavista.

Eskilsson was a part-timer with Hammarby in Stockholm when he made his name in the spring of 1988.

Playing for Sweden in the final of a four-nation tournament in Berlin, he scored one of the two goals that beat the Soviet Union.

A number of clubs showed an interest — he signed a contract which gave Bologna first option — before Sporting came up with an offer too attractive to refuse.

Dropped

He says: "I moved to Portugal in August 1988. But during the first three months I was away more than I was there, because of international matches and then the Olympic Games. So when I finally got back I had to start on the bench.

"Then I got into the team, got dropped and then got a thigh injury, so I was out for another three months."

At the end of that first season the club had more foreign players than it knew what to do with, and Eskilsson found himself surplus to requirements and out on loan to Sporting Braga.

He says: "I enjoyed it there, but as far as the football went we were very defensive — the point that we sometimes played away games with no forwards, or at the most one, shows that and I was used to playing with at least two."

"So it was difficult on the pitch, but I really enjoyed it at the club and in the town."

There was a big interest in football and always lots of people at the games." Eskilsson played his last game for Braga in May 1990.

Returned

He returned to Sporting Lisbon to find he was still surplus to requirements.

Not only that, the club were in the throes of a financial crisis and refused to pay him, despite his five-year contract.

"They just refused to fulfil the contract. I didn't get my salary, I didn't have anywhere to live, I wasn't allowed to train with the team, they took my car back. In the end I was forced to go back to Sweden — I had nothing in Portugal."

Eskilsson returned home in August last year.

It then took months to persuade Sporting Lisbon to come to some kind of agreement over the money he claimed they owed.

It was not until the beginning of April that he finally played a competitive match again, at the beginning of the Swedish season for AIK of Stockholm on an amateur basis.

— from WORLD SOCCER



Switzerland's Knup (left) and Scotland's Boyd. Their Euro-92 fate will be decided this week.

Flamengo back down

Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo has bowed to a FIFA deadline and suspended a lawsuit against the Brazilian Soccer Federation (CBF).

But, Braga made clear that if the CBF failed to meet the club's demand, Flamengo would pursue the court case and defy the Swiss-based FIFA.

"FIFA won't punish Flamengo. If they try to punish us, we will sue them in Zurich," he said.

"If they try to punish us, we will sue them in Zurich," he said.

FIFA, which prohibits



MALTA's Premier League, now well under way, again includes 10 clubs for the 1991/92 season.

Late last season already-relegated Naxxar Lions failed to take the field against Zureiq, thus guaranteeing that the latter should stay up.

The FA have now decided that Birkirkara, who would have been relegated with Naxxar, also should stay in the Premier Division.

Newcomers for this season are Mqabba Hajduks and Luxol St. Andrews, the latter making their Premier Division debut.

Floriana were the biggest spenders, making five signings — Charles Sciberras (Rabat Ajax), Albert Bussut (Kirkop), Robert Agius (Melita), Richard Buhagiar (Mostar) and international defender John Buttigieg.

HERE & THERE

■ CZECHOSLOVAKIAN national team manager Milan Macala has been given a new contract which takes him through to the 1994 World Cup despite his team's failure to qualify for next year's European Championships.

★★★

■ KARL-HEINZ KORBEL has finally retired after a record 602 matches in the Bundesliga. His club, Eintracht Frankfurt, played a 4-4 draw against Bayern in a farewell match. Korbel scored twice.

★★★

■ REFEREE Carcelen Garcia is one official who doesn't boast eyes in the back of his head. He waved on Betis substitute Loreto in a Second Division game at Santander without checking that another player had left the pitch. Betis played three minutes with 12 players and Santander — who lost 1-0 — are demanding the match be replayed.

★★★

■ ESPANOL's German striker Wolfram Wuttke has just had to pay \$2,000 for a meal in the team hotel. Wuttke didn't like what coach Ljubko Petrovic had ordered for everyone, threw down his plate and stormed out. Former Red Star supremo Petrovic fined him \$2,000!

HISTORY IS MADE

HISTORY was created when Phillipines defeated Brunei 2-1 in the first Philippines Cup tournament in Manila.

The Filipinos had not won a senior international since 1958!

Unfortunately, the celebrations did not last long.

In subsequent games Philippines were beaten by a Malaysian club team, Malay Mail, and then held to a draw by Taipei Bank of Taiwan.

That was the only point dropped by the Taiwanese, who won the round robin competition by one point over Malay Mail.

Brunei lost all three games.

SPANISH SUPER CUP

BARCELONA have Spain's Super Cup by drawing 1-1 with Atletico Madrid in the return-leg of the tie which is contested between last season's Champions and Cup winners.

Barcelona, the champions, won the away-leg 1-0.

In the return game, Alfredo put Atletico, who fielded a team made up mostly of reserves, clear after 39 minutes.

But Johan Cruyff's side drew level in the 69th minute through Bakero.

Barcelona made the difference in the second-half when they brought on their strong midfield lineup of Jose Maria Berguistain and Bulgarian international Hristo Stoichkov.

An Anglo-French Euro disaster!

MARSEILLE, beaten finalists last season, saw their dream of becoming the first French club to win the European Cup shattered again last Wednesday.

They were joined in defeat by Cup Winners' Cup holders Manchester United, the dominant team in England this season, who lost 4-1 on aggregate to Atletico Madrid of Spain and by Arsenal, PSV and Spartak Moscow.

Marseille made costly mistakes and went out on away goals after losing the second leg 2-1 to finish 4-4 on aggregate against unfancied Sparta Prague.

Sparta midfielder Martin Frydek scored in the 36th minute in Prague and striker Horst Siegl clinched a place in the round robin last stage in the 69th minute.

Two late penalties awarded against them in the first leg two weeks ago when 3-0 clear proved Marseille's undoing.

Benfica, who beat Marseille in a controversial 1990 semi-final, stayed on course for a crown they last won in 1962 by beating Arsenal 3-1 after extra time, 4-2 on aggregate, at Highbury.

Former winners PSV Eindhoven went out 2-0 at Anderlecht of Belgium. Police made about 40 arrests after Dutch fans wrecked a bar before the tie and fighting broke out following the game.

With the score 1-1 after 90 minutes, Arsenal's hopes began to slip away when Vasily Kulikov put Benfica ahead.

Arsenal were frustrated by the woodwork and then went further behind to Isaias, scorer of Benfica's first goal, in the 109th minute.

Liverpool, four times European Cup win-

ners, produced some old magic in the UEFA Cup after losing the first leg 2-0 in Auxerre and saw off the French club 3-2 on aggregate.

They were helped when Auxerre defender Frederic Darras was sent off in the 75th minute for a foul.

It was the first time in Liverpool's 21-year European history that they had overturned a 2-0 first leg deficit.

Italian champions Sampdoria also recovered a first leg deficit in the Champions' Cup, winning 4-3 on aggregate against Honved Budapest despite a second half own goal.

But Bayern Munich, a pale shadow of a club that also won the European Cup four times, went out of the UEFA Cup on Tuesday 6-3 on aggregate to BK 1903 Copenhagen.

Barcelona, Cup Winners' Cup finalists last season, staged an astonishing Champions' Cup escape against German champions Kaiserslautern by scoring in the last minute.

The Spaniards, who won 2-0 at home, were down 3-0 and looked dead and buried until Jose Bakero headed a crucial away goal.

European champions Red Star Belgrade had an easy 2-0 return leg win in Cyprus against Apollon Limassol, who had a player sent off.

The results of the second legs in Round 2:

CHAMPIONS CUP: Arsenal 1 (Pates), Benfica 3 (Isaias 2, Kulkov) (Benfica win 4-2 aggregate); Sampdoria 3 (Vialli 2, Lombardo) Kijpest-Honved 1 (Pari own goal) (Sampdoria win 4-3), Anderlecht 2 (Degryse, Boffin) PSV 0 Anderlecht win 2-0); Goteborg 2 (Svenson, Eckstrom) Panathinaikos 2 Saravakos 2 (Pao win 4-2); Kaiserslautern 3 (Hotic 2, Goldbaek) Barcelona 1 (Bakero)

(Barcelona win on away goals); Brondby 0 Dynamo Kiev 1 (Jakovko) (Kiev win 2-1); Sparta Prague 2 (Frydek, Siegl) Marseile 1 (Pelé) (Sparta win on away goals); Apollon Limassol 0 Red Star Belgrade 2 (Savicevic, Lucic) (Red Star win 5-1).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Monaco 1 (Robert Norrkoping 0 (Monaco win 3-1 on aggregate); Manchester United 1 (Hughes), Atletico Madrid 1 (Schuster) (Atletico win 4-1 on aggregate); Ferencvaros 0 Werder Bremen 1 (Bode) (Bremen win 4-2); FC Brugge 3 (Verspaille, Staelens, Schaelessens) Katowice 0 (FC Brugge win 4-0); Feyenoord 0 Sion 1 (Feyenoord win 5-3 on penalti-

es); Banik Ostrava 1 (Ollender) Galatasaray 2 (Yusuf, Kosecki) (Galatasaray win on away goals); AS Roma 5 (Carnevale 2, Giannini, Rizzitelli, Di Mauro) Ilves Tampere 2 (Czakon 2) (Roma win 6-2).

UEFA CUP: VfB Stuttgart 2 (Buchwald, Sverrisson) Osasuna 3 (Urban 2, Merino) (Osasuna win 3-2 on aggregate); Bayern Munich 1 (Mazinho) BK 1903 Copenhagen 0 (BK Copenhagen 6-3 aggregate) FC Tirol 2 (Westerthaler 2) PAOK 0 (FC Tirol win 4-0); Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Ghent 1 (Vandenbergh) (Ghent win 1-0); Boavista 0 Torino 0 (Torino win 2-0); Dynamo Moscow 1 (Kobelyev) AS Cannes 1 (Omam Biyik) (Dynamo win 2-1); CSKA Sofia 1 (Dimitrov) Hamburg SV 4 (Schporl 2, Furtok, Bode) (Hamburg win 6-1); Ajax Amsterdam 3 (Pettersson, Blind, van Loen) Rot Weiss Essen 0 (Ajax win 5-1); Tabzonspor 4 (Mandirali 2, Aslan, Cikrikci) Lyon 1 (Bursak) (Trabzonspor win 8-4); Real Madrid 1 (Hagi) FC Utrecht 0 (Real win 4-1); Liverpool 3 (Molby, Marsh, Walters) Auxerre 0 (Liverpool win 3-2); AEK Athens 2 (Dimitriadis, Batista) Spartak Moscow 1 (Mostovoj AEK win 2-1); Dinamo Bucharest 2 (Gerstenmajer, Cristea) Genoa 2 (Matei o.g., Aguilera) (Genoa win 5-3); Celtic 1 (Miller) Xamax Neuchatel 0 (Neuchatel win 5-2).

KIWIS WIN

The New Zealand Olympic romped to a 4-0 win over Fiji in the opening second round match of the Oceania Olympic play-offs in Suva, Fiji last Thursday.

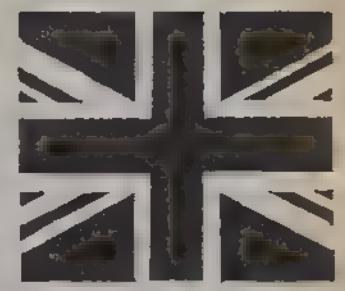
Julian Fallon scored the side's opening goal in the 67th minute before claiming his second nine minutes later in the clash at the National Stadium here tonight.

The two goals, plus two more from midfielders Thomas Edge and Shane Gillies, inspired coach Ian Marshall to say the team was now looking ahead confidently to the all-important showdown against Australia on Wednesday.

Australia is New Zealand's biggest threat, leading the play-off table with three wins from the first round matches.



Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel — his club was knocked out of the Cup-Winners' Cup it won last season.



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

YOU CAN SMASH MY RECORD ALLY

Says four-goal Scotland ace COLIN STEIN

SCOTLAND hitman Colin Stein would love to see his scoring record smashed at Hampden this week.

The ex-Rangers star grabbed one of Scotland's biggest post-war hauls with four goals in an 8-0 World Cup qualifying win against Cyprus in 1969.

And he reckons there must be a present-day Scotland hotshot capable of repeating his feat against European Championship minnows San Marino on Wednesday.

Andy Roxburgh's men need a colossal 10 goals to make up goal difference on Switzerland, who play Romania at the same time.

GRAB

And they'll still have to crack at least four to prevent the Romanians

having a chance.

"My record is bound to go some time and it might even be this game," says Stein.

"Ally McCoist, for one, always looks like a guy who's going to grab a few goals."

"It all depends on whether our strikers get the chances created for them."

"Even the best forwards in the world can't do anything if they don't get the ball to their feet."

"From what I saw of the first game, San Marino are just a bunch of spoilers, but hard to break down."

"It was easier on my day because these small-fry sides weren't so well-coached in the defensive arts as they are now."

"But I'm sure that if the chances are laid on them, our forwards will respond."

But Stein - who now concentrates his sporting activities on championship-class bowls at Linlithgow - warns Roxy's lads: "Forget about those 10 goals."

"You'll NEVER score them if you go flat out to reach double figures."

"You'll only put extra pressure on yourselves that way."

And he adds: "If we haven't scored after the first 20 minutes the fans are bound to get restive and that will only

"We should team up McCoist and Durie from the start. Ally's looking really sharp these days, more than Mo, and Gordon's got plenty of bustle about him"



Ally McCoist

make things worse.

"My approach against these sort of teams was to go after one goal at a time."

"Once you've broken your duck, the second seems easier to get, then the third."

DEBUT

"Scotland should make that their scoring plan this week."

Stein became the first

\$100,000 signing by a Scots club when he moved from Hibs to Rangers in 1968.

And he netted a hat-trick on his Ibrox debut, playing alongside Alex Ferguson.

But thoughts of a Scotland record weren't in anyone's mind when he lined up against the Cypriots at Hampden the following year.

SPECIAL

That was made plain when Scotland were awarded a late penalty with the score 7-0.

Stein had scored four, equaling the post-war record set by Denis Law - against Northern Ireland in 1962 and Norway in 1963 - and Billy Steel against Northern Ireland in 1950.

But if he'd scored that

final penalty, he would have equalled the all-time record of FIVE goals in a game, which is shared by Hughie Gallacher, against Northern Ireland in 1929, and Rangers player Charles Heggie, against Ireland in 1886.

Instead, Stein left the kick to regular penalty-taker Tommy Gemmill, who scored to clinch a famous victory. Team boss Bobby Brown didn't give me any special instructions for the game except to stay up," says Colin.

"But the chances arose and they went in."

"We scored twice in the first five minutes to put us on the way. It'll be great if Scotland can repeat that."

Stein remembers scoring one of his goals with a near post flick from a Billy Bremner corner.

"It's a shame that most Scotland teams don't do that nowadays," Stein laments.

"Being at the near post for an inswinging corner always troubled opponents."

"It doesn't matter what height you are, if

you get in first and flick the ball on it always troubles the defence. Big Jack Charlton used to cause havoc doing that."

But Stein insists Scotland still have the men for the job.

"They are just as good as the players of my day," he says.

"McCoist, Mo Johnston and John Robertson are more than capable of doing the business."

ATTACK

"Andy doesn't seem to fancy Robbo, but I think that, with Gordon Durie alongside him, he'd score a few goals."

But the old goal hero's tip to Roxy is: "Team up Durie and McCoist from the word go."

"I'm a Durie admirer. He's got that bit of bustle about him that we need in attack, especially when we haven't got a big target man."

"Ally's looking really sharp these days; more than Mo, who seems to do more of the fetching and carrying and doesn't really get into the same scoring positions."

SCOTLAND'S BOY WONDERS! Roxy bids to stop Marino spoilers

ANDY ROXBURGH has drawn up dramatic OFF-THE-FIELD battle plans to destroy the San Marino spoilers.

He'll have 30 ballboys on duty at Hampden - treble the usual number.

"I'll have them stationed all around the pitch, with two lines of them behind the goals," says Roxy. "And there'll be others in the empty areas of the terracing to get the ball back quickly."

"We need goals so it's vital we keep the ball in play. In

Italian football, they only actually play 50 minutes out of the 90 because there are so many stoppages."

The Scots boss is also staging all his practice sessions at Hampden, where the "opposition" will be told to time-waste and feign injury.

"I want to plant a picture in our players' heads of what they might be facing," he says. Celtic's Brian O'Neil is one of four youth stars being drafted in to help during training sessions.

But San Marino's only big-time player, Massimo Bonini,

who once played alongside Liam Brady for Juventus against Celtic at Parkhead in a European tie, warns: "We're not coming to Glasgow to be walkovers. We've got our pride and that means getting a respectable score-line."

Roxy insists his first priority is two points but says: "We'll be geared up to go after the goals we need."

"As well as our strikers, we've got defenders like Stuart McKimmie, who is prepared to operate as an outside-right in our bid for goals."



Here it is — the best soccer action show of the week

ENGLAND WARNED

ABSW
Best
Euro
special



**'You will have to
beat yourselves
again not to reach
the finals. But one
mistake by one of
your defenders —
and we could win'**

EXCLUSIVE

CLOWN COURT VERDICT

By Poland's World Cup hero
JAN TOMASZEWSKI

JAN TOMASZEWSKI is the old Polish goalkeeper who laughed at Brian Clough and left English football in tears.

TV pundit Clough mistook his spectacular antics between the posts for a Coco act under the Big Top.

But "The Clown" chucked us out of the 1974 World Cup with his own hands and has coached most of the team who will face England in another historic showdown this week.

He told me: "England knocked themselves out on that unforgettable night for me. They were in too much of a hurry.

"And they will have to beat themselves again not to qualify for the European Championship finals in Sweden.

"Poland are not good enough to force victory by themselves, even at home. I forecast a 0-0 draw.

"But it would take only one mistake by an England defender for us to win.

"We have our fighting spirit back again and our fans will create a fantastic atmosphere."

Tomaszewski, at 43, is

still a touch unconventional. His best pal is Poland boss Andrzej Strejlau, a 50-a-day chainsmoker they call Narko because fags and football are his narcotics.

It's no wonder he's on the weed. He's got more problems assembling a national team than Graham Taylor will ever experience.

DUST-UP

That's because they play abroad, almost to a man. England will even beat some of them to Poznan this week.

Another of Strejlau's problems was a rival Polish coach who kept calling him useless. So Tomaszewski accused the critic, for whom he once played, of being an habitual drunkard and a match fixer.

Tomaszewski quit as Poland's assistant boss only last year after falling out with committee men. So he's well up on our current scene.

He said: "The first thing is that England are not as good as the team we put out of the World Cup years ago.

"That one was strong. Kevin Keegan was on the bench. They might even have won the World Cup if they had

gone through. And now you do not even have our best player — who is azza, beyond any doubt.

"Des Walker is your best defender, but they will all have to be on top form. There will be no room for error.

"Poland cannot make the same defensive mistakes they made in their 3-3 draw with Ireland.

FREEDOM

"Everyone talks about Gary Lineker, and the Polish fans are afraid of him, they remember his three goals against us in the 1986 World Cup.

"But Lineker is not in the Cruyff or Pele class. He's only effective when his team-mates play for him.

"If they do not, as it must have been the case against Turkey at Wembley, he cannot make something out of nothing.

"Such a man is Chris Waddle, who must be given total freedom to go where he likes.

"He is similar to Ziober, our biggest hope, who also plays in France with Montpellier. Only God knows what they will do next."

The same often goes for Tomaszewski, twice divorced and married again to a pretty young table tennis star in the textile town of Lodz. He is a hero of two World Cups and the Olympic Games, and has won 65 caps. Englishmen remember only one of them.

freeze my hand with an injection and it ached badly after the match, I stayed in my hotel room alone while all my teammates went out for their celebration drinks.

"My wrist was in plaster for two weeks and I was black and blue, but it couldn't spoil the

He reckons arranging flights and furloughs for Waddle, David Platt and Trevor Steven is child's play.

And Tomaszewski confessed: "There is a lack of harmony in our team that England can exploit.

"How could it be different? It's very difficult getting hold of players, especially for friendlies.

"I am hoping our late comeback to draw with Ireland will have our players on a high."

The Poles are on 5,000 dollars a man to win. That's big bucks when top home-based stars are on just 250 dollars a week.

It's paid for by a pharmaceutical tycoon, Poland's fourth richest individual.

The players are glad they are not sponsored by the wealthiest. She's the lady who married the late founder of Johnson's baby powder.

Tomaszewski, too, is one of Poland's new capitalists. His firm Celish, deals in real estate.

His advertising crack is: "I once destroyed England's footballers. Now, if they want, I will build them homes in Poland."

If England don't qualify for Sweden, we may well hear the cry: Take him up on it.



Polish striker Roman Kosecki (right) against England last year.

Tomaszewski has the last laugh on Clough

KICKED

He recalled: "I must admit I was lucky that night. We thought we stood very little chance.

"I remember Allan Clarke shot from five metres and I don't know to this day how I saved it. He just stood there with his hands on his hips, staring at me.

"Not many people knew that I had been kicked by Clarke after just two mintues of the game.

"The doctor had to

happiest night of my life."

Polish manager Strejlau is one of the few world soccer bosses with less top-class playing experience than Taylor. He was better at handball.

His FA bosses in a country where speedway draws bigger crowds than First Division football boggle at the size of his telephone bills.

He has four players in Britain, two in France, one in Spain, one in Germany, one in Turkey and another in Greece.

ROUND 7

	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
England	5	3	2	6	2	8
Rep Ireland	5	1	4	10	5	6
Poland	5	2	2	7	5	6
Turkey	5	0	0	0	11	0

This week's fixture list

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 12

Scottish Second
Clyde v Queen of South

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 16

First Division
Aston Villa v Notts Co
Chelsea v Norwich
Palace v Southampton
Everton v Wimbledon
Leeds v QPR
Man City v Man United
Forest v Coventry
Oldham v Arsenal
Tottenham v Luton
West Ham v Liverpool

Second Division
Blackburn v Barnsley
Bristol R v Watford
Cambridge U v Brighton
Derby v Ipswich
Middlesbrough v Charlton
Millwall v Wolves
Oxford Bristol C
Plymouth v Port Vale
Swindon v Portsmouth



Celtic's Paul McStay in an "Old Firm" clash

Scottish Premier

Dundee Utd v Falkirk
Dunfermline v Hibernian
Hearts v Celtic
Motherwell v St Johnstone
Rangers v Airdrie
St Mirren v Aberdeen

Scottish First
Hamilton v Raith
Kilmarnock v Forfar

Meadowbank v Clydebank

Montrose v Morton
Partick v Dundee
Stirling A v Ayr Utd
Scottish Second
Alloa v Clyde
Arbroath v Berwick
Dumbarton v Stranraer
East Fife v Brechin
East Stirling v Q Park

Queen of South v Albion R
Stenhousemuir v Cowdenbeath

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 17

First Division
Sheff Utd v Sheff. Wed.
Second Division
Sunderland v Newcastle

MARK HUGHES
has taken some
stick over being
Mark Hughes.

This week he hopes to hand out some of his own in Wales' fading European Championship cause.

Sweeper Mark says: "Yes, I had some problems over the name when I joined Tranmere. People kept comparing me with the Manchester United striker.

"Then, I was always known as Mark Hughes II. Now the fans have been singing I'm Mark Hughes No. 1!"

Welsh boss Terry

Yorath could use both Hughes boys in a double helping of muscle against Luxembourg tomorrow.

At one end of Cardiff's National Stadium, Sparky will be aiming to put right the goal difference wrecked by Germany.

And sweeping behind him could be the namesake debutant who only dreamed he might share the same international pitch as the Manchester United powerhouse.

"I'm living proof that anything can happen in this game," says Tranmere's Port Talbot-born star.

"Who'd have thought two years ago I'd be picked for the Welsh squad. I was in the Third Division and enjoying it, but being called up for the national squad was just a schoolboy dream.

"And when the call did come I just didn't expect it, especially for such an important game."

"I have been on standby a couple of times but didn't get in, even when centre-halves were injured."

"The only rumours going around were that I could be an over-age player in the Under-21 squad."

ALL THE RESULTS FROM BRITAIN

BARCLAYS LGE DIVISION 2

	B	R	I	S	T	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BARNESLEY	0	BRISTOL	1								
HT: 0-0		Att: 6,688									
BRIGHTON	1	MIDDLESBRO.	1								
HT: 1-0		Att: 8,270									
BRISTOL	1	SUNDERLAND	0								
HT: 1-0		Att: 10,570									
CHARLTON	0	BLACKBURN	2								
HT: 0-1		Att: 7,114									
IPSWICH	1	CAMBUTD	2								
HT: 0-1		Att: 20,586									
NEWCASTLE	2	GRIMSBY	0								
HT: 2-0		Att: 16,559									
PORTSMOUTH	2	OXFORD	1								
HT: 7-0		Att: 7,567									
PVALE	0	MILLWALL	2								
HT: 0-0		Att: 8,944									
SOUTHEND	3	SWINDON	2								
HT: 1-0		Att: 7,709									
WATFORD	0	LEICESTER	1								
HT: 0-1		Att: 9,271									
WOLVES	2	DERBY	3								
HT: 1-1		Att: 15,877									

DIVISION 3

	BRENTFORD	4	WIGAN	0
HT: 1-0		Att: 6,675		
BURY	1	BOLTON	1	
HT: 0-1		Att: 5,886		
EXETER	0	STOKE	0	
		Att: 6,300		
HARTPL	2	FULHAM	0	
HT: 0-0		Att: 2,990		
HUDDERSLD	3	BIRMINGHM	2	
HT: 1-0		Att: 11,688		
HULL	1	CHESTER	0	
HT: 1-0		Att: 4,305		
PETERBORO	2	BRADFORD	1	
HT: 1-0		Att: 9,224		
PRESTON	2	DARLINGTON	1	
HT: 0-0		Att: 4,643		
READING	1	WESTBROM	2	
HT: 0-1		Att: 5,826		
SCUNTHPR	1	ROOTHERHAM	0	
HT: 0-0		Att: 4,175		
HT: 1-0		Att: 2,388		

DIVISION 4

	BARNET	3	HALIFAX	0
HT: 1-0		Att: 4,837		
BURNLEY	3	MANSFIELD	2	
HT: 1-1		Att: 11,848		
CHESTERFLD	1	BLPOOL	1	
HT: 0-0		Att: 6,017		
CREWE	2	WREXHAM	1	
HT: 2-0		Att: 3,596		
GILLINGHM	1	MAIDSTONE	1	
HT: 0-0		Att: 6,716		
HEREFORD	1	ROCHDALE	1	
HT: 1-0		Att: 2,950		
NORTHPTN	1	LINCOLN	0	
HT: 0-0		Att: 2,575		
SCARBORO	2	CARLISLE	2	
HT: 2-0		Att: 1,501		
SCUNTHPR	1	ROOTHERHAM	0	
HT: 0-0		Att: 4,175		

B & Q PREMIER

	CELTIC	2	ABERDEEN	1
HT: 1-1		Att: 36,837		
DUNDEEUTD	0	HIBS	1	
HT: 1-0		Att: 8,817		
DUNFRMLINE	0	RANGERS	5	
HT: 0-2		Att: 13,351		
FALKIRK	3	ST MIRREN	0	
HT: 1-0		Att: 4,446		
HEARTS	2	ST JOHNSTONE	1	
HT: 0-0		Att: 10,222		
MOTHERWELL	1	AIRDRIE	2	
HT: 0-1		Att: 5,509		

DIVISION 1

	HAMILTON	1	DUNDEE	3
KILMARNOCK	1	MEADOWBANK	0	
MONTRÉO	1	CLYDEBANK	3	



Neil Webb

ALL YOUR TABLES FROM ENGLAND



ENGLISH 2ND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	APts
Cambridge	16	10	3	3	29	18	33
Middlesbrough	18	9	4	4	34	16	31
Swindon	16	9	4	4	34	20	30
Charlton	18	8	5	5	23	18	29
Leicester	17	8	5	4	23	22	29
Derby	17	8	4	5			



PITCH FURY

PARTICK THISTLE boss John Lambie last weekend blasted Stirling's controversial plastic pitch.

He stormed: "No one should be expected to play on that sort of surface."

"It was a fair result considering the conditions," added Lambie who is now on the look out for a "big striker."

Alex Kennedy's 51st minute strike cancelled out Davie Lloyd's opener for the homesters.

Dundee boss Iain Munro praised new signing Eddie Gallagher for his "tremendous work-

Annfield blast from Lambie

Gallagher, signed with Ian McCall from Dunfermline, scored twice in the first five minutes at Hamilton, and was also booked.

MacPherson scored a stunning solo goal when he walked past three players before chipping keeper Jim McQueen to give Kilmarnock two points against Meadowbank.

Furious Morton boss Allan McGraw gave his players a tongue lashing for nearly an hour after the shock 3-1 home defeat by Forfar.

Derek McInnes put Morton ahead early on but Forfar's Stewart Petrie struck with a hat-trick.

Clydebank beat Montrose by the same score, late goals from

Said Munro: "We are now spoilt for choice up front." Hamilton boss Billy McLaren vowed: "Lots of hard work lies ahead this week."

Ex-Ranger Gus



John Dickson and two from George Rowe, wiping out two Don Bieman's first-half strikes.

B & Q Cup finalists Ayr laboured through a dull goalless draw with Raith Rovers.

WOODS GETS SHILTS' VOTE

ENGLAND keeper Chris Woods flew to Poland this week with this dramatic vote from Peter Shilton: "You're my No.1"

Shilton is backing former Rangers ace Woods to help England win a place in the European Championship finals.

Controversy over the rival claims of Woods, now with Sheffield Wednesday, and Arsenal's David Seaman to Shilton's old



England jersey has raged ever since he quit the international scene at last year's World Cup.

But Shilton said: "Chris has always been my choice. He is more commanding and has the better temperament and greater concentra-

tion.

"David is actually the more natural. He is gifted with being agile, supple and quick."

"But he is also more laid back. People in the game used to say to me when David was at QPR that he would never be an international keeper because he made too many sloppy errors."

"For games where it really counts, I'm happier to see Chris between the posts."

Hoggy's timing is bang on button

HEARTS 2
ST JOHNSTONE 1

GRAEME HOGG could not possibly have chosen a more appropriate time to open his scoring account for Hearts.

There were less than 30 seconds left on the clock when Hoggy latched on to an Ian Baird header to snatch the winner.

And after watching his table-toppers scrape home, manager Joe Jordan smiled: "I wish we wouldn't leave it so late. It's bad for the heart."

But it was hard not to feel sorry for St Johnstone boss Alex Totten, who admitted: "To lose a goal at that stage was heart-breaking."

"We played good football throughout and scored a smashing goal in fact we matched Hearts in every department."

Man of the match Gary Mackay paid tribute to St Johnstone as he added: "They played in a more positive manner than any other team that has come to Tynecastle this season."

INTENT

Indeed, this was only the second goal Hearts have conceded at home this season.

St Johnstone declared their attacking intent from the start as Kenny Ward charged out of defence to create a shooting chance for John Davies.

His effort, however, lacked direction and was easily gathered by Henry Smith.

And there was drama in the 24th minute when St Johnstone appeared to be awarded a penalty for a push on Paul Wright by Alan McLaren.

Hearts escaped, however, when the linesman raised his flag and called play back for an earlier offside decision.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 61st minute, Derek Ferguson swung a corner in from the left and Baird ran to the near post to send a glancing header past Lindsay Hamilton.

But St Johnstone were not going to lie down without a fight and they drew level just four minutes later.

DAMAGE

Ward made ground down the right and looked up to pick out Harry Curran with a perfect cross for Curran to steer the ball wide of Smith.

But the excitement was not over. And a thriller writer could not have penned a better finish than Hearts provided.

It was another corner that did the damage. This time Baird nodded Ferguson's kick into the path of Hogg and his first-time volley left Hamilton without a prayer.

BEST PLAYER: Mackay.

FLASH SHOW BY GORDON

DUNFERMLINE 0
RANGERS 5

DAPPER Dale Gordon took under an hour to tell the Rangers fans: "I'm tailor made for you!"

Flash Gordon made two goals, scored two and was denied a debut day hat-trick only by an eagle-eyed linesman as the Ibrox men overwhelmed Dunfermline.

It was the perfect start for the £1.2 million signing from Norwich, who was too lively and imaginative for a pedestrian Pars side, as even an East End Park ball boy agreed.

The youngster shook Gordon's hand after his fifth goal had put the icing on a Pars-pulverising Rangers performance.

Delighted boss Walter Smith beamed: "Dale gave us a better balance than we've had for a few weeks."

LAUGH

Scoring two and making a couple will obviously please him, and he hopes to continue in that way.

"Overall, I thought we played some really good football at times."

In the opening 10 minutes dynamo Dale was given a taste of what to expect in Scotland when he was twice bundled to the ground.



RICHARD GOUGH

First he was bowled over by Andy Rhodes going for a Pieter Huistra corner, then he came down to earth with a bump following an Eddie Cunningham tackle.

But the sleek snappy winger had the last laugh by setting up Rangers' opener, then running amok. He took Stuart McCall's pass and fired in a pinpoint cross which was easily nodded in by Richard Gough.

Gordon was immediately in the action again when his clever turn set up Gary Stevens outstanding throughout, for a cross which whistled across the face of Rhodes' goal.

And he got in on the goal action when he took

header was ruled out on offside, but his second appearance on the score-sheet was only delayed three minutes.

He finished off a fine Rangers move when he nodded in Hateley's cross, then saluted the Rangers fans.

And he praised his teammates. "I feel as though I have been with Rangers three weeks instead of three days."

"The lads have been tremendous."

"It was nice to have a target man like Mark Hateley up front because that is something I never had at Norwich."

Gordon's debut victory couldn't have been more emphatic.

BLEAK

Rhodes saved well from a McCoist shot and a McCall drive, and Hateley nodded wide.

Andy Goram was seldom troubled, a fact Pars boss Jacky Scott made no attempt to disguise.

He blasted: "It was a total embarrassment, men against boys."

Rangers have quality players if you are not going to compete you are not going to do anything and we certainly didn't compete."

BEST PLAYER: Gordon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

You can receive a yearly mail subscription to Australia's premier soccer publication simply by mailing the coupon and your cheque for \$90 (overseas airmail rates on request) made payable to Australian and British Soccer Weekly" to P.O. Box 406, BROADWAY, NSW. 2007.

* EXTENSIVE NEWS COVER—THE NATIONAL TEAMS, NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE, BRITAIN, EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA & AROUND THE WORLD, THE STATES, JUNIORS, INDOOR, WOMEN. FIRST, BIGGEST & BEST!

COMPLETE IN BLOCK LETTERING:

SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$160.00

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SUBURB: _____

STATE: _____ POSTCODE: _____

ABS—TOP OF THE WORLD

NICE START FOR NASTY

CELTIC's self-styled Mister Nasty found the Premier Division noisy—but loved every minute of what he heard.

Celtic 2 Aberdeen 1

The £1 million capture Tony Mowbray made an impressive debut in Scotland's match-of-the-day as Celtic powered to third place in a Parkhead thriller.

The ex-Middlesbrough centre half slotted in alongside Gary Gillespie and almost smashed home a sensational goal with a shot which struck the crossbar from 35 yards.

And afterwards the strong-man defender, who has admitted that he has to be mean and nasty not to concede goals, revealed he was overwhelmed by the Parkhead sound.

"My biggest impression is being hit by a wall of noise when I walked out of the tunnel, and it never ended," he said.

"At Middlesbrough you had to do something really special to rouse the fans, like score a goal, but here it went on throughout."

"It was a new experience for me and I hope it happens every week."

But Mowbray could not have chosen a better game to start in Celtic's colours with Aberdeen again making a title challenge.

Credit

They scored first through Eoin Jess but Celtic equalised with a vintage Charlie Nicholas goal.

And in the second half, substitute Gerry Creaney headed home Celtic's winner to spark more celebrations.

Celtic boss Liam Brady said: "I was told it's always a good game of football with Aberdeen, and this one lived up to its

reputation.

"There's no doubt we deserved to win, but both clubs emerged with credit.

"To go a goal down, then come fighting back and have most of the play says a lot."

"It took Aberdeen half-an-hour to come out of their own half after the break, but when they did, it was a nailbiting finish which showed why both of us are contenders."

Brady added: "I'm more than happy with Tony Mowbray. Everyone could see how he took over and organised our defence."

And rival boss Alex Smith said: "It was a smashing game, but I wasn't happy about losing that first goal."

"It was Charlie's skill that got it, but it should never have happened."

Celtic were stunned after just 12 minutes when Jess shot the opener for the Dons.

The attack was launched by Jim Bett, and though a cross from Hans

Gillhaus was drifting past the goal, Jess's never-give-up qualities were rewarded.

The young striker chased the ball and struck it home from the narrowest of angles.

Celtic didn't sit back and Nicholas once again showed why his absence from Scotland squads must be questioned as he hit his 18th goal of the season.

From a pass by Paul McStay, Nicholas first took on Brian Irvine, then Gregg Watson and ended his devastating dribble by rounding Theo Snelders to score.

Gerry Creaney, who took over from injured Chris Morris, was given a midfield job but in the 63rd minute moved up to meet Tommy Coyne's cross and head the winner.

Splendid

Both keepers were constantly in action, Snelders saving brilliantly from Coyne in the first half. And after the break



Ace Celtic goalscorer Charlie Nicholas.

he made a splendid stop from Nicholas and kept out a point-blank header from Creaney.

Bonner's heroics came

in the first half when he stopped a full-blooded drive from Gillhaus.

BEST PLAYER: Nicholas.

HAPPY ALEX

Motherwell 1 Airdrie 2

JUBILANT Airdrie boss Alex MacDonald was full of praise for his battling Diamonds after they took the honours in this Lanarkshire derby.

They survived almost the entire second half with centre half John Watson in goal after keeper John Martin had been sent off.

And happy Mac said: "They were absolutely magnificent. They gave everything."

After they had weathered some early Motherwell pressure without too much difficulty Airdrie took the lead when John Watson headed home a Paul Jack cross in the 25th minute.

The game exploded into life in the 51st minute when Martin brought Phil O'Donnell down as he raced in on goal. Referee Brian McGinlay had no hesitation in showing Martin the red card and goal hero John Watson took his place between the sticks.

And Davie Cooper sent him the wrong way from the penalty spot.

But Airdrie battled away and were rewarded in the 83rd minute when Even Balfour crashed in the winner.

BEST PLAYER: Kidd.

SOLICITORS

Our firm specialises in all legal matters involving the soccer code, and including:

- Playing being cited for infringements
- Clubs being cited for bringing the game into disrepute
- Appearing before the Tribunals and Committees of the State and National Leagues
- Other general matters; (Criminal/Family/Compensation/Conveyancing)

Call us for all your legal needs.

THEODORE SMYRNIS & SOLOMON

Solicitors & Public Notary

1st Floor, 454 Forest Rd, BEXLEY 2207

PH: (02) 597 7033

FAX: 597 1749

Ask for: Andrew Smyris or Mario DiLizio

HIBS IN HUNT!

Gordon's to the rescue

DUNDEE UNITED 1
HIBS 1

powerful header.

Surge

United's Dutch keeper Guido Van de Kamp made an instinctive fingertip save only for the ball to break lose in the crowded area.

And up popped man-on-the-spot Hunter to prod it over the line to earn a point.

United's opening surge proved decisive as early as the third minute. A long ball into the dan-

ger area broke back off towering striker Duncan Ferguson into the path of Ray McKinnon who blasted in a 12-yard volley.

Hibs rolled up their sleeves and were on top until the interval with a Keith Wright header rebounding off the wood-work.

But the second half was a different story, with United missing several golden opportunities to wrap things up.

BEST PLAYER: McKinnon.

THE theme song of the Easter Road support was "A Gordon for me" after their young defender's late contribution on Tayside.

Gordon Hunter, seldom seen on a Hibs scoresheet, fired the goal which maintained their title challenge.

Just four minutes remained when Dave Beaumont nodded in a

Shaw thing seals a win

PRESTON 2 DARLINGTON 1

PRESTON'S run of 13 unbeaten home games came under pressure.

But Darlington's heroic defence was finally overwhelmed, conceding two goals in just six minutes.

Darlington took the lead after 52 minutes from a quickly-taken free kick.

Before Preston had organised Mick Tait pushed the ball on and it was driven through the home defence by substitute David Cork, a replacement for Gary Gill who went off on a stretcher with a leg injury after only 10 minutes.

Then Lee Ellison almost pulled off anot-

her when he rattled the crossbar with a long lob.

Preston's front line had been ineffective for most of the game. But substitute John Thomas showed them how it should be done by equalising in the 76th minute with a glancing header.

Then a faulty back pass let in Graham Shaw, who made no mistake after 82 minutes.

BACK

ENGLAND keeper Chris Woods flew to Poland at the weekend with this dramatic vote from Peter Shilton: "You're my No.1."

Shilton is giving Woods his personal backing for the crucial role he has to play this week in trying to win a place in the European Championship finals for England.

Controversy over the rival claims of Woods and David Seaman to Shilton's old England jersey has raged ever since Shilton quit the international scene at the World Cup.

Shilton, a legend with 125 caps over two decades, always refused to discuss one of the hottest topics in football while he was an England coach to both keepers.

But, now he has given up that job, he feels free to explain why he believes manager Graham Taylor has finally made the right decision.

Shilton said last weekend: "Chris has always been my own choice of successor because I feel he is more commanding and has the better temperament and greater concentration.

"There has been a bit of to-ing and fro-ing for both Chris and David but Graham Taylor has got it right now with Chris.

"There is not a lot to choose between them in things like shot stopping and ability on crosses. Both Chris and Dave have a very strong all-round game.

Agile

"But Chris definitely has the edge in terms of concentration.

"For me, David is actually the more natural keeper. He is gifted with being agile, supple and quick.

"But he is also more laid back. People in the game used to say to me when David was at QPR that he would never be an international keeper.

"That's because they felt he made too many sloppy errors.

"He has cut a lot of that out of his game since his move to Arsenal where his confidence grew by playing behind such a strong defence last season.

"David has started to



CHRIS WOODS

Honour's Hartlepool prize guy

HARTLEPOOL 2
FULHAM 0

THIS game will go down in the history books simply because the two clubs have never met before in the League.

In most other respects, the match was instantly forgettable.

Hartlepool deserved their victory mainly because they showed more enterprise and attacking football.

And they ended a six match run without a win, set on their way by a Brian Honour goal.

But Fulham were a disappointment from start to finish and created only one chance.

That was an effort by John Marshall early in the second half which flew yards wide after a tangle in the Hartlepool defence.

Hartlepool struck twice in seven minutes midway through the second half.

They went in front after 61 minutes. John Tinkler won a vital tac-

kle on the edge of the penalty area and the ball ran kindly for Honour to sidefoot home.

Then full-back Rob McKinnon sent Steve Fletcher away on the left and the big striker's low cross was bundled into his own net by Fulham defender Simon Morgan.

It was a fitting way for the match to be decided as Fulham paid the penalty for their lack of enterprise.

The Cottagers won't be looking forward to their next trip.

BEST PLAYER: Leaning.

Judge pays for error

HEREFORD 1
ROCHDALE 1

A COSTLY mistake by Hereford keeper Alan Judge handed Rochdale a point — but it was the least they deserved after dominating the game.

Hereford was leading 1-0 from a Simon Brain header just before half time when the visitors hit back in the 58th minute. Steve Whitehall lofted in a harmless cross but Judge could only turn the ball into his own net.

It was a shame for Judge who had deni-

ed Rochdale with a brilliant one-handed save from Whitehall and an Alan Reeves' header.

Hereford went close in the final minutes when Kevin Russell, on loan from Leicester City, just chipped over and Derek Hall shot narrowly wide.

SOUTHEND 3
SWINDON 2

Swindon's closest effort in that opening period came when Paul Sansome saved from Steve White and then Andy Edwards cleared off the line when White tried his luck from the rebound.

Southend appeared to have a golden chance to make the game safe in the 57th minute when Nicky Summerbee handled a Keith Jones cross.

But Austin watched in horror as Nicky Hammond saved, making it eight of nine misses from the spot from Southend.

That let-off sparked off a flurry of goals.

In the 61st minute a cross from Summerbee was headed home by

HELL, IT'S ANGELL

Swindon blow off top by basher Brett

White for his 100th goal for the club and his 13th of the season.

Southend regained the lead in the 76th minute, Jones fed Austin and his cross to the far post was turned in by Angell.

Within five minutes, it was 3-1 as Benjamin slid the ball through to Tilson, who got his reward for a tremendous afternoon's work.

But, straight from the kick-off, Swindon hit back as Duncan Shearer lobbed cleverly past Sansome to set up a grandstand finish.

BEST PLAYER: Tilson.



ACTION SPECIAL: ABSW — best in the world for soccer

WOODS

PETER SHILTON

work harder on his game but has not been around half as long as Chris.

"He was playing for Birmingham not so many years ago and Chris played a League Cup Final against Liverpool at 18 when I was cup tied with Nottingham Forest.

"For European Championship and World Cup ties, where it really counts, I'm happier to see Chris than the posts.

"He has deserved his chance to be No.1 and I am pleased he has now got it."

Manager Taylor first selected Woods as Shilton's successor in the friendly against Hungary and European Championships ties against Poland (home) and the Republic of Ireland (away).

Then he dropped him and played Seaman in goal for the friendly against Cameroun and the European Championship matches against the Republic of Ireland (home) and Turkey (away).

Both men had a



Chris is my No. 1 choice for England

Wembley game each, Sheffield Wednesday star Woods against the Soviet Union and Seaman against Argentina, before Woods secured the post on a four-match tour of Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia which Seaman was required by Arsenal to miss.

Shilton added: "My heart went out to Chris when David was preferred to him for a spell and looked as though he was the No.1.

"I had Chris as my No.2 for six years after Ray Clemence quit and it must have been quite devastating for him when he lost the job.

"I'll never forget the look on Chris's face

when I told him of my decision to retire during the World Cup. It was one of total disbelief.

Strong

"He'd sat for so long on the bench and never let England down in the few games he played or the times he came on as sub.

"I know how he must have felt because I had the same experience for a few years playing behind Clemence.

"It's the worst thing in the world when you think you could be on the pitch doing the job.

"You have to be very strong willed to be an England keeper. Determination counts for so much and Chris has proved he has that quality by battling back from setbacks.

"Chris was suffering at one point because he was playing in Scotland and David was playing with a very successful Arsenal team in London.

"One or two people said to me that Chris was a bit shaky in the Dublin tie last November. That's where he lost his place to David.

"But I went out on the pitch kicking balls into him before the start and the wind made conditions impossible.

"You couldn't really judge a keeper on a game like that.

"Keeping goal for England is nothing like doing it at club level. Every match is a big game and temperament is the key.

"Mistakes are magnified tenfold. Sometimes they can live with you for the rest of your career.

"People still remember the one I made for Poland to take the lead against England at Wembley in that deciding World Cup qualifier in 1973.

"They remember Ray Clemence for a slip against Scotland at Hampden Park and Scotland's Jim Leighton has a few that people will not allow him to forget.

"Having the occasional game as No.2 is not so bad, it's different when you are No.1. Now Chris has that responsibility and, from what I know of him, he'll grab it passionately."

DAVID SEAMAN



Kenny's up and away

Charlton 0 Blackburn 0

BLACKBURN moved nearer the promotion pace-makers as Kenny Dalglish picked up his first away points, at the third attempt.

The men he can thank most are scorers Scott Sellars and David Speedie, plus keeper Bobby Mimms.

Sellars shot Rovers ahead in the fifth minute with his first goal of the season.

Daft

Mimms' massive drop kick caught the Charlton defenders on the hop and caused full-back Darren Pitcher to head the ball into the path of Sellars, who scored with a superb shot from the edge of the area.

Sellars might have had a second on the half-hour when he drove narrowly wide in a quick attack.

But Speedie wrapped up victory in the 73rd minute when he

netted from close range after Jason Wilcox and Sellars had combined to carve out the chance.

Speedie nearly put some icing on the cake with a late header which rebounded from the face of the bar.

Blackburn defended in numbers, with Colin — just returned to his old club from Manchester City for £700,000 — always in the thick of things.

Even so, their defence lived dangerously at times and it needed a couple of excellent saves by Mimms to halt Carl Leaburn.

Rovers will need to spend again if they are to fashion a promotion side.

And a bit more Dalglish discipline is needed for they picked up three daft bookings.

Wilcox and Atkins were cautioned for kicking the ball away and Hendry for failing to retreat ten yards at a free kick.

BEST PLAYER: Mimms.

netted from close range after Jason Wilcox and Sellars had combined to carve out the chance.

Speedie nearly put some icing on the cake with a late header which rebounded from the face of the bar.

Blackburn defended in numbers, with Colin — just returned to his old club from Manchester City for £700,000 — always in the thick of things.

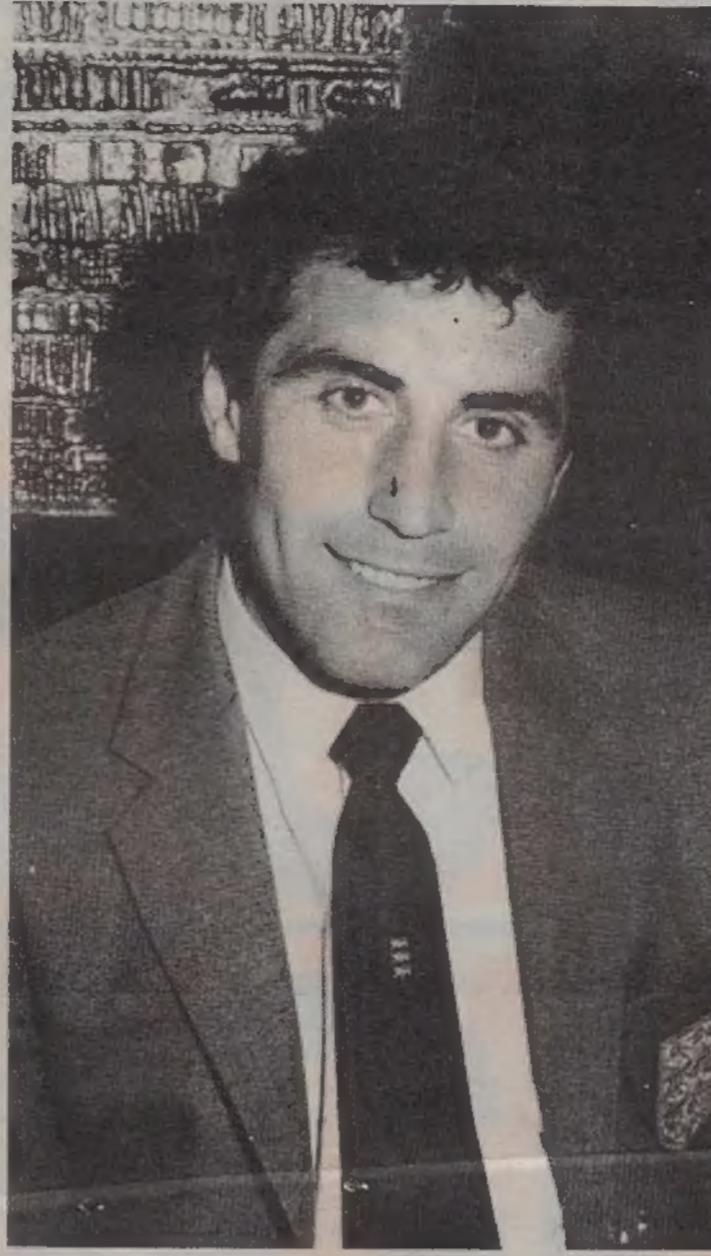
Even so, their defence lived dangerously at times and it needed a couple of excellent saves by Mimms to halt Carl Leaburn.

Rovers will need to spend again if they are to fashion a promotion side.

And a bit more Dalglish discipline is needed for they picked up three daft bookings.

Wilcox and Atkins were cautioned for kicking the ball away and Hendry for failing to retreat ten yards at a free kick.

BEST PLAYER: Mimms.



PETER SHILTON

SLIP

Some of Shilton's most stubborn performances were achieved in World Cup qualifying games in Albania, Sweden and Poland. Not a single goal passed him by.

He added: "Those are the matches when an England keeper earns his corn.

"The truth is that neither Chris nor David has really been over-worked since I finished. They both have a bit to prove in situations when the chips are down.

"That will be the case in Poland and I'm very confident that Chris is the man for the job and England will get the result they want."

Barnsley are shot down by Reece rocket

BARNESLEY 0 BRISTOL ROVERS 1

ANDY REECE hit the jackpot when he tried something different for Rovers — a shot at goal.

His 85th-minute strike from the edge of the box flew into the net to continue Rovers' recent revival.

They've now gone five League matches without defeat and this was their second away win of the week, following their shock victory at Wolves.

But Reece's shot was their first serious effort on goal as Barnsley dominated.

The chance was created when Devon White won keeper Brian Parkin's clearance in the air.

Reece showed the way, as just a minute later David Mehew was denied Rovers' second goal by Barnsley keeper Lee Butler's scrambling save.

Earlier, Rovers had to survive a barrage of Barnsley corners.

But Rovers, with central defender Steve Yates in outstanding form, held out despite an onslaught which intensified after desperate Barnsley fell behind.

In the first half, Parkin made tip-over saves from Brendan O'Connell and Andy Rammell and Ian Alexander cleared an Owen Archdeacon shot off the line.

Steve Cross also made a goal-line clearance from O'Connell's header 11 minutes from time and O'Connell and David Currie were guilty of squandering chances.

Barnsley's frustration was underlined when Mark Robinson was booked for a heavy challenge on Tony Pounder five minutes from time.

But Rovers held on for a victory which increases the chances of caretaker-manager Dennis Rose landing the job on a permanent basis.

BEST PLAYER: Yates.

EXETER 0 STOKE 0

ALAN BALL was spat at by angry Stoke fans at the start of the second half as his Exeter side held out for a draw.

Ball, who left Stoke last season, was the target for a torrent of abuse from the visiting supporters throughout the afternoon.

Exeter almost went in front in the 37th minute when Tom Kelly's delicate chip into the box caught Stoke completely off guard, and Steve Moran was in a great position.

But keeper Jason Kearton managed to take the sting out of his shot, and as the ball rolled towards the line, managed to scramble back and scoop it away.

It was Exeter's Kevin Miller's turn to become the hero in the second half when he kept out Mark Stein's point-blank range header.

And then in the 82nd minute he did it again to beat away Vince Overson's powerful header as Stoke pushed for the winner.

TOMMO TREAT

Kid Alan steps in to fire Geordies

NEWCASTLE 2
GRIMSBY 0

MIRACLE kid Alan Thompson celebrated a debut he will never forget.

The 17-year-old former YTS youngster was called into Newcastle's side only minutes before kick-off when England Under-21 midfield star Lee Clark twisted his ankle in a freak accident running out for the warm-up.

Dream

But his bad luck proved a big break for Thompson, who responded by laying on the killer goal for Steve Howey.

Andy Hunt pounced with a precise opener on 17 minutes when he latched on to a flick from Howey.

And the game was up for Grimsby when Ho-

wey headed in the second after 29 minutes following an inch-perfect cross from the left from Thompson.

BEST PLAYER: O'Brien.

TORQUAY 1
ORIENT 0

ONE piece of luck on Wednesday and an own goal last weekend have given Torquay six points in four days.

But when you're bottom of the league, it doesn't matter how they come.

The only goal of the match came in the 24th minute when

Micky Holmes had his shot from the right deflected over keeper Chris Turner's head by Adrian Whitbread.

Ten minutes later, Torquay's Mark Loram collected the ball at the far post only to shoot against the other upright.

And keeper Gareth Howells kept his side in the game in the 58th minute with a marvelous save from Steve Castle.

★ The B-I-G action pages ★

KENNY CHASES McSTAY CELTIC STAR PAUL IS \$4m TARGET

KENNY DALGLISH is ready to make a sensational swoop for Celtic's midfield ace Paul McStay.

He sees Parkhead's pedigree motivator as the man who can unlock the Premier League door for Blackburn.

The price would be something around \$4 million, but that won't

bother Rovers backer Jack Walker.

And, Celtic out of Europe following last week's UEFA Cup humiliation by Neuchatel Xamax may be ready to sell.

McStay's contract is up this season and he's shown little sign of jumping in to sign another.

The 52-capped Scot

is cannily waiting to see the effect of boss Liam Brady's rebuilding plans before he commits himself.

McStay also knows this could be his last big contract.

And if he decided to go at the end of his current deal, Celtic would have to settle for far less money than if they sold now.

Seville were keen, but the Spaniards now have their full quota of foreigners.

Anyway, the home-loving quiet man has shown no wish to try his luck abroad.

Everton could be Second Division Blackburn's main rivals.

Howard Kendall could offer McStay instant First Division football while

Dalglish can only give promise of a golden vision.

TARGET

But Blackburn went for Dalglish because of his name's pulling power and it is unlikely anyone else could tempt McStay into the Second Division.

If Dalglish can clinch the deal it would com-

plete two-thirds of his rebuilding of Rovers' spine.

Last week he landed \$1.4 million centre back Colin Hendry.

Now, after being disappointed in another move for Everton's Mike Newell, his prime target is a striker.

Hendry played his part at the weekend in the morale-boosting 2-0

win over fourth placed Charlton at Upton Park.

Rovers were given an ideal start by Scott Sellars' fifth-minute goal, and Davie Speedie settled the point later with another.

This victory, Blackburn's third away in eight trips, keeps them eighth in the table, six points behind shock leaders Cambridge.

SAUNDERS SWOOP!



Dean Saunders

MANCHESTER CITY are ready to rescue Dean Saunders from his Liverpool nightmare.

Reid backs Deano to bring back title

Manager Peter Reid reckons a strike partnership between Niall Quinn and the \$6 million Welsh whippet could give the Maine Road club their first title since 1968.

The ambitious City boss has the cash in place following the financial boost from this week's \$1.4 million sale of Colin Hendry to Blackburn.

And if Anfield boss Graeme Souness decides Dean is never going to make it as Ian Rush's partner, Reid looks in pole position to

pounce.

Souness has tried to use Saunders in a swap deal for Forest's Des Walker.

But he had no chance, even if Forest boss Brian Clough were likely to be tempted.

MASSIVE

The fact is, the greyhound centre-back is destined for Italy at the end of the season.

His contract is up next summer and contains a clause allowing him to leave for a bargain \$2.4

million.

That would leave him free to pick up a massive signing-on fee and a contract which would set the England star up for life.

Reid seems to have no domestic rivals as a buyer for Saunders.

One time admirers Leeds, Everton and Forest have lost interest.

And even if Alex Ferguson were tempted, Souness would never sell to Manchester United a player who could hurt him on the rebound.

Meanwhile, Reid is

still sizing up possible alternatives to Saunders.

This week he watched Hull's \$2 million rated hit-man Andy Payton.

SPEED

And he followed that Sunday by running the rule over West Brom's speed man Don Goodman at Reading.

But Reid knows that Saunders is the buy that would finally convince City's sceptical punters that he really means business for the title.

MABBUTT WINS TAYLOR'S VOTE

GARY MABBUTT, who captained Spurs to European glory last Thursday, jetted out to Poland at the weekend in defence of his country.

England need a draw from their crucial European Championship qualifying decider with the Poles in Poznan tomorrow.

And England boss Graham Taylor has decided Mabbutt is the man to partner defensive strong man Des Walker against Poland.

Mabbutt was recalled by Taylor for England's last qualifying tie against Turkey at Wembley. But fans, hugely disappointed by the performances that achieved the 1-0 win, wondered what Taylor might do next. Mabbutt has fought an astonishing battle throughout his career.

He's a diabetic who must inject himself with insulin several times a day just to keep going.

Now he's been given a key job in helping

England qualify for the finals in Sweden next summer.

His spirits are high after a starring rearguard role for Spurs in a 0-0 draw against Porto to send Spurs into the next round of the European Cup Winners Cup.

Striker Gary Lineker, England's leading scorer linked in a move in Japan in 1993 in a deal backed by Toyota, is refusing to contemplate his future before this week's crucial tie.

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, November 16

★ World Soccer — 5.30pm

★ Main match: Arsenal v Benfica — return leg of the Round 2 European Champions' Cup tie, from Highbury.

Sunday, November 17

★ Italian Soccer — 10.30am

★ One hour reviewing last weekend in the highly acclaimed Italian league. Features a main match and all the goals in the First Division.

European Football — 11.30am

★ Main match: PSV v Groningen — top of the ladder Dutch clash from the Philips Stadium at Eindhoven.